FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Offensive — Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced the defeat of a major Iranian offensive on the southern front 24-26 December, claiming that 50,380 Iranians were killed in battles that centered around Umm al-Rasas and other islands in the Shatt al-'Arab. The Iraqi command said its III and VII Corps destroyed 1,016 boats, 422 vehicles, and 8 tanks in a "great harvest" of enemy forces. The radio broadcast an Iraqi commander's statement to journalists that Iraqi troops were able to expel the Iranians from all the footholds they had gained.

However, an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA described the Iranian attack, codenamed Karbala IV, as a "limited" offensive aimed at destroying Iraqi troop and artillery positions, adding that Iranian troops returned to their bases after achieving their objectives. Iraq is trying to "make a mountain out of a molehill" in an attempt to boost its troop morale, he asserted. On Iraqi casualties, Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed and some 6,500 were wounded in the Iranian offensive.

In other military developments, Iraqi communiques announced further Iraqi air strikes on the Bakhtaran area 24 December and on maritime targets in the Gulf 26 and 28 December. Iran's claim to have shot down several Iraqi aircraft over the southern battlefronts was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by WAKH.

Regarding Iranian manpower requirements, Tehran radio broadcast an appeal by the Revolution Guards Corps for more volunteers to register for military training.

Tehran Explosion — A number of people were injured when ammunition at a Tehran military garrison exploded accidentally 27 December, IRNA reported, quoting "informed sources." Iranian opposition sources in London claimed that over 500 Revolution Guards were killed in the blast, according to KUNA.

Iraqi Opposition — A 4-day conference on solidarity with the Iraqi people was concluded in Tehran 28 December, Tehran radio noted, adding that the meeting was attended by over 400 Iraqi militants. The conferees called for the formation of a military committee to coordinate their activities against the Iraqi regime, IRNA disclosed. Regarding the military situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran radio claimed that an Iraqi battalion surrendered 28 December to forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Attempted Hijack, Crash of Iraqi Airliner

An Iraqi source cited by WAKH stated that Iranian agents of Lebanese nationality were responsible for the 25 December attempt to hijack an Iraqi airliner, which crashed during a forced landing in Saudi Arabia. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied any Iranian involvement in the incident, IRNA noted. Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by various groups in Beirut including the "Revolutionary Action Organization," which warned of further attacks unless Iraq releases three of its members, according to Beirut radio.

The Saudi authorities had announced the crash at 'Ar'ar Airport in a communique broadcast by Riyadh radio, noting that 62 people were killed, 32 were injured, and 12 escaped unhurt. The survivors included former Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who subsequently related to Amman's *Al-Dustur* how the forced landing occurred after hijackers exploded a grenade and exchanged fire with Iraqi guards on the aircraft. AFP noted reports that two Lebanese hijackers survived but were seriously injured.

In the wake of the incident, President Saddam Husayn held a 2-hour meeting with King Fahd during a visit to Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage, Voice of the Masses reported. At the conclusion of his visit the Iraqi leader sent a cable to Fahd affirming that bilateral relations will be strengthened and expressing gratitude for Saudi hospitality, the radio noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage's Release — Following Aurel Cornea's release 24 December, Paris radio broadcast French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's remarks thanking Palestinian officials as well as the Algerian, Syrian, and Lebanese authorities for assisting the release of the French hostage. The "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" had released Cornea as a gesture in response to "changes" in France's policy, according to AFP.

Security — Beirut radio and other local stations reported sporadic Amal-Palestinian clashes over the Christmas period. An Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the DFLP for an attack on Amal personnel in the Al-Biqa' Valley 25 December, noting that six Amal men were killed or wounded when their bus was ambushed. A Libyan diplomat was assassinated in Al-Biqa' the same day, according to Tripoli radio, which broadcast a cable from the DFLP accusing Amal of the killing.

In northern Lebanon, Syrian forces continued to hunt their opponents over Christmas, Beirut radio reported, adding that more than 30 people were killed in clashes east of Tripoli. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Syrians have arrested a number of shaykhs, and Voice of Lebanon radio noted that they are trying to track down Hashim Minqarah, a leader of the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM). In a related development in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio reported that IUM leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban discussed the Tripoli situation with President Hafiz al-Asad 28 December, adding that Sha'ban condemned the "failed attempt by a certain group" to undermine

Tripoli's security and that he emphasized Syria's "principal role" in maintaining security in the city.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF killed over 10 "terrorists" in a 24 December raid on the village of Maydun, 3 km north of Israel's security zone, Jerusalem radio reported. The attack was directed against members of Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Israel

Shamir Cleared — The inquiry commission into the killing of bus hijackers in 1984 has concluded that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give any directive to kill the terrorists and that he did not support the falsification of evidence after the event, Jerusalem television reported. The commission rejected former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom's claims about Shamir's role, the television said, and Shamir has asked the attorney general to publish the results of the inquiry.

Vanunu Trial — Reporting on the 28 December opening session of Mordekhay Vanunu's trial, Jerusalem radio noted that he pleaded not guilty to charges of espionage and collaborating with the enemy.

Palestinians — *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah was deported from Israel 28 December, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that Haniyah was charged with involvement in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. Two youths were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers in Ramallah the same day, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to Jordan — During a working visit to Jordan 28 December, President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn held talks on the situation in the Arab and Islamic world in preparation for the Islamic summit in Kuwait, an Egyptian official told MENA, adding that the atmosphere was "constructive and amicable."

Relations With Syria — A "ranking Syrian envoy" recently made a secret visit to Cairo during which the two countries agreed to halt their slanderous media exchanges, according to a 26 December *Al-Qabas* report cited by KUNA.

Protests in Asyut — AFP cited Egyptian press reports that 124 members of "extremist religious organizations" were arrested in Asyut 26 December as antiriot police used teargas to disperse fundamentalist demonstrators who disrupted Friday prayers.

Libya

Chadian Conflict — Libyan troops captured Zouar oasis from Chadian forces 28-29 December, according to "reliable" sources cited by AFP. Earlier, Chadian sources in Paris stated that Chadian forces repulsed Libyan attacks over Christmas, killing 500 Libyans and downing 3 planes, the agency reported. AFP also noted that Chadian Government troops had arrived from the south to reinforce Goukouni Oueddei supporters. In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the Chadian "masses" sent Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message hailing GUNT's "splendid victory" over the "remnants of mutineer Habre." The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the French ambassador to protest France's "policy of hostile escalation" in Chad and to warn of its potentially serious consequences, Tripoli radio disclosed 24 December.

PLO Office — The PLO reopened its office in Tripoli, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio announced 25 December.

Internal Issues — In 27 December remarks to General People's Congress officials cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that those who refuse to exercise the people's power by not attending the basic people's congress sessions will lose their civil rights. He also stressed the importance of the people's defense committees in the consolidation of the people's authority.

Sudan

Sudan Air resumed its Khartoum-Juba passenger flights 27 December, SUNA reported, adding that cargo flights began last week. The flights had been suspended after the SPLA downed a civilian plane 16 August.

Iran-Pakistan

Tehran radio reported that an Iranian naval officer was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi 25 December, asserting that "agents of global arrogance" were responsible.

Iranian and Pakistani officials began discussions the same day in Tehran on a possible exchange of Iranian oil for Pakistani goods, the radio noted.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 249 *29 December 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Receives Province Representatives ..... C 1
Rebel Leader Rabbani Visits Paris, Comments *[Paris LE MONDE 16 Dec]* ..... C 1
Ministry Cites Trade With USSR at $960 Million ..... C 2
Armed Forces Claim Success in Nangarhar Province ..... C 2
Mujahidin Claim 35 Soviet-Kabul Soldiers Killed *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
41 Reportedly Killed in Qandahar *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
Rebels Say Many Troops Killed in New Offensive *[AFP]* ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Tribal Violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Committee to Probe Killings ..... D 1
Explosion Reported in Political Leader's Home *[AFP]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Delhi on Conclusion of Talks With Pakistan ..... E 1
Moscow Talks Held on Implementing Agreements ..... E 1
Tiwari Reiterates Desire for Nuclear Test Ban ..... E 1
Security To Be Increased on Bangladesh Border ..... E 1
Home Minister Concerned Over Tripura Violence ..... E 1
Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 4 ..... E 1
Strike 'Paralyzes' Tripura Life ..... E 1
Curfew Imposed After Tribal Killing ..... E 1
More Killed; Army To Stage March ..... E 2
South Goa Returning to Normal; 200 Arrested ..... E 2
Punjab To Remain Restricted Area for Foreigners ..... E 2
'Terrorist' Activities Reported in Punjab ..... E 2
'Terrorist' Incidents in Faridkot ..... E 2
4 Killed in Kapurthala ..... E 2
'Local' Congress-I Leader Killed ..... E 2
Student Factions Call Strike ..... E 2
125 Arrested as Strike Approaches *[AFP]* ..... E 3
Strike Evokes 'Mixed Response' ..... E 3
Police Seize Arms, Equipment in Tamil Nadu ..... E 3
Colombo Cites Paper on Details *[THE STATESMAN]* ..... E 3
'Terrorists' Crossing into Pakistan Arrested ..... E 4
Newspaper Article Prompts Strike in Kashmir ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

'Official-Level' Talks With India Begin *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
India's Venkateswarn, Noorani Meet ..... F 1
India Propaganda Matter of Concern ..... F 1
AFP Reports Further ..... F 1
India's Venkateswaran, Sattar Talk *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
India's Venkateswaran, Junejo Meet ..... F 2
Joint News Conference Held ..... F 2
Further on News Conference ..... F 2
Ziaul Haq Receives Message ..... F 2

Economic Commission Meeting With PRC Continues ..... F 3
PRC Minister, Junejo Meet ..... F 3
Cooperation Agreement Signed ..... F 3
PRC Official, Finance Minister Meet ..... F 3
PRC Boundary Committee Delegation Arrives ..... F 3
Documents Signed ..... F 3
Yaqub Khan To Discuss Afghanistan in Beijing ..... F 3
Delhi Reports Iranian Naval Officer Killed ..... F 4
Situation in Karachi Reportedly 'Normal' ..... F 4
Curfews To Be Relaxed 29 Dec ..... F 4
Bhutto Reportedly Unable to Visit France *[Delhi]* ..... F 4

IRAN

Involvement in Iraqi Jet Hijacking Denied ..... I 1
Khamene'i Gives Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon ..... I 1
SAIRI Chairman on Islamic Resurgence ..... I 2
Iraqi Solidarity Conference Opens in Tehran ..... I 2
Khamene'i Addresses Conference ..... I 2
SAIRI Chairman's Address ..... I 3
Velayati Addresses Banquet ..... I 3
Musavi on Saddam's 'Downfall' ..... I 4
SAIRI Spokesman Speaks ..... I 4
Musavi-Ardabili Address ..... I 5
Hezbollah, Libyan Officials Speak ..... I 5
Iraqi Kurdish Officials Interviewed ..... I 6
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks ..... I 6
Resolution Issued ..... I 6
Ammunition 'Accidentally' Explodes at Garrison ..... I 8
Opposition Cited on Over 500 Killed *[KUNA]* ..... I 8
Montazeri Cables Bakhtaran Official on Bombing ..... I 8
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 8
Bakhtaran Residential Areas Hit Again ..... I 8
Retaliatory Shelling Begun ..... I 8
Iraqi Military, Economic Sites Hit ..... I 8
Iraqi Communications Center Shelled ..... I 8
'Karbala IV' Offensive Launched ..... I 9
'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on Iraqis ..... I 9
'Sensitive Enemy Centers' Captured ..... I 9
Communique Issued on Offensive ..... I 9
Iraqi Naval Base, Oil Complex Hit ..... I 9
Offensive 'Militarily Important' ..... I 10
2 Iraqi Warplanes Downed in South ..... I 10
Third Iraqi Warplane Downed ..... I 10
Iraqi Casualities Exceed 1,500 ..... I 10
Fatalities Raised to 3,000 ..... I 10
Air Cover Provided During Offensive ..... I 10
Objectives of 'Limited Offensive' ..... I 11
Iraqis Respond With Chemical Weapons ..... I 11
Captured Iraqi Troops on Offensive ..... I 11
Karbala IV Commander on Operations ..... I 11
Offensive Termed 'New Dimension' ..... I 12
Iraqi Supply Columns Halted ..... I 12
Communique No 2,695 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,696 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,697 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,698 ..... I 14

Najibullah Receives Province Representatives

LD250618 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 24, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, received the elders and representatives of the Provinces of Nangarhar, Konar, Laghman, Paktia, Paktika and the grand district of Khowst.

Addressing the audience, Najib talked about the better results of war, bloodshed and fratricide which have been imposed on the people by the reactionary and imperialist countries.

Najib called the adoption of the policy of national reconciliation a logical step in the evolutionary process of the April Revolution and is indicative of the strength of the People's Democratic Party and the state of the DRA.

Najib expressed the all-sided preparation of the party and state leadership for ensuring national reconciliation. It is necessary, he stressed, that all the tribes and nationalities should contribute for the cause of bringing about national reconciliation and to solve all the problems and differences through jirgahs (assemblies). General secretary of the PDPA CC characterised national reconciliation as a principled policy of the party and state and the patriotic duty of every Afghan for achieving prosperity and happiness to the people.

The representatives of these provinces expressed their firm support for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation aimed at ending bloodshed and fratricide.

Rebel Leader Rabbani Visits Paris, Comments

PM231236 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 86 p 4

[Francis Deron report: "An 'Accidental' Bombing Raid on Qandahar Apparently Killed Several Dozen People"]

[Text] Two Soviet fighter planes bombed the city of Qandahar in southern Afghanistan on Monday 8 December killing several dozen people, according to reports issued on Saturday 13 December by Afghan refugees in Pakistan who state that after the raid the Kabul authorities explained to the population that it was an accident.

According to the refugees, the two planes dropped between four and six bombs on the western part of the new suburb of Qandahar, an area in which there is a bus station, a hospital, a school, and several administrative buildings. The raid took place after a rebel ambush of a Soviet armored column in Mahalajat, a small town 45km from Qandahar. Following the raid, jeeps belonging to the pro-Soviet Afghan forces drove around the city with bullhorns telling the population that it was a "mistake" and expressing the authorities' "regrets."

One of the main Afghan rebel leaders said, on a brief visit to Paris on Saturday, that this raid demonstrated the insincerity of the Soviet Union's recent conciliatory statements about progress toward a political settlement of the conflict.

According to Professor Rabbani, leader of the Jami'at-e Eslami movement, one of the seven components of the Islamic Alliance of Mujahidin, the optimism recently expressed by Mr Gorbachev, particularly during the visit to Moscow last week by Mr Najibullah, head of the Kabul regime, are all diplomatic maneuvers aimed at influencing international meetings like the next Islamic summit which will be held in Kuwait in January.

"There is no doubt that the new Soviet leadership is trying to show public opinion that it is capable of adopting measures" aimed at solving the conflict "by arguing that the war (in Afghanistan — *Le Monde* editor's note) is the work of the old generation whereas the new generation wants to build peace," Professor Rabbani told us. "But the repeated statements to this effect recently were not followed by practical action to solve the conflict and we therefore remain extremely vigilant."

Mr Rabbani has just been sent by the Islamic Alliance's seven movements on a tour of Africa — the first by an Afghan rebel leader — to establish direct contact between the mujahidin and Third World heads of state (Senegal, Gabon, Niger) because the Third World is the "Achilles heel" of Soviet diplomacy. He went to Brussels this Monday 15 December to continue his overtures to the EEC. This tour reflects an increased effort by the resistance fighters in the diplomatic sphere which is obviously aimed at countering the effects of Moscow's avowed flexibility.

Mr Najibullah has constantly supported this flexible attitude recently and has called, as he has just done again in Moscow, for the formation of a government of "national unity" including forces "which are temporarily situated outside the country's borders," in other words the more moderate rebel groups. "We do not think that Mr Najibullah, the leader of a regime regarded by our people as a gang of murderers, has the right to dictate the Afghans' future," Mr Rabbani replied curtly, stressing the divisions in the communist party in Kabul, as demonstrated by the firing of Babrak Karmal and several of his political friends.

In view of the approach of the 7th anniversary of the Soviet invasion on 27 December, the rebel leader said that the rebels have shown a military success rate of "more than 50 percent" over the past year, due in particular to a "better knowledge of enemy strategy." This does not prevent the current diplomatic offensive from reflecting a degree of anxiety in the resistance particularly as a result of President Reagan's problems in the wake of the "Irangate" affair.

Questioned on the risks of a reduction in U.S. aid, Professor Rabbani tried to make himself clear, while speaking cryptically: "The defeat of the Afghan resistance would cause a major international imbalance and would be a considerable step forward for the Soviet Union. I hope that temporary problems will not affect the long-term interests of many Western and Third World countries. These interests cannot be dependent on one individual." This was one way of reminding the U.S. Congress of its recent enthusiasm for the cause of the Afghan "freedom fighters."

Ministry Cites Trade With USSR at $960 Million

LD270255 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 25, BAKHTAR — The volume of the exchange of goods between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union through the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Soviet Union amounted to 960 million dollars in 1986. This figure shows an increase of 6.7 percent as compared to the year 1985.

This was released in a press conference which was held here today for assessing the results, development, and expansion of the commercial and economic cooperation of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in 1986.

Out of the 960 million dollars of the exchange of goods, the export of the Soviet Union amounted to 600 million dollars and the import of the Afghan goods amounts to 360 million dollars. Following the five-year agreement on the exchange of goods between the two countries, the trade has been developing between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan since 1976.

The year 1986 is the first year for the implementation of the long-term new agreement on the exchange of goods for the years 1986 to 1990. According to this agreement, the volume of the exchange of goods is estimated to go up to five billion dollars whereas the volume of the exchange of goods between the two countries amounted to 4.3 billion dollars during the years 1981 to 1985.

The prospects on concluding a commercial trade protocol is fruitful in 1987 and favourable conditions will be created for the consolidation and expansion of the Afghan-Soviet commercial cooperation.

Armed Forces Claim Success in Nangarhar Province

LD281841 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Our country's heroic Armed Forces have successfully crushed a group of counterrevolutionaries based in the subdistricts of Pashshad and Agam, Nangarhar Province, which was disrupting the inhabitants' peaceful life there, and have destroyed their hideouts.

A BIA correspondent reports that in the operations that were held with the full cooperation of the people of that region some of those elements were crushed and the following was captured: 1,200 surface-to-surface rockets, 1,000 antivehicle mines, 3 mortars, 9 DShK's with 57 boxes of shells, 4 ZK-1, 2 recoilless guns, one 23-mm gun, one system for launching surface-to-surface rockets, two systems for the surface-to-air rockets [as heard], 1,400 shells for rocket launchers, 500 boxes of hand grenades, 3 heavy machine guns, 1,700 antipersonnel mines, several assorted weapons, 158,000 shells, 12 clothing, foodstuff and ammunition depots and a generator.

In addition, 2 DShK's, 1 mortar, 1 system for launching surface-to-surface rockets, 522 mortar shells, 198 antivehicles mines, 287 rocket launcher shells, 300 kg of explosives and 80 boxes of DShK shells were destroyed.

Mujahidin Claim 35 Soviet-Kabul Soldiers Killed

BK230926 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have regained control of three Soviet-Najib army posts near Khowst in Paktia Province. Thirty-five Soviet-Najib soldiers, including ten officers, were killed after a weeklong fighting. Fighting is also reported to be going on around another Soviet-Najib army camp near Khowst where mujahidin claimed to have destroyed a number of armored vehicles.

41 Reportedly Killed in Qandahar

BK260611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, 41 Soviet-Najib regime officers were reportedly killed in a recent attack by mujahidin on Qandahar Airport.

Rebels Say Many Troops Killed in New Offensive

BK281320 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 28 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan troops pressed an attack Sunday against a rebel base south of Jallalabad, in southeastern Afghanistan, the pro-rebel *Afghan Islamic Press Agency* (AIP) reported here. The agency quoted a leader of the rebel party running the base, Yunis Khales, as saying that the Soviet-Afghan troops had started moving towards the base, known as Tora Bora, a week ago with 500 vehicles. AIP also quoted rebels as saying that they had killed numerous troops and destroyed an unspecified number of vehicles during several days of battles.

The news agency said the rebels had attacked the Jallalabad airport overnight Tuesday, destroying three airplanes on the ground. Reliable sources said the Tora Bora base was important because new weapons were stocked in it. Consequently, the rebels were said to have been expecting the Soviet-Afghan attack.

Tribal Violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts

BK230534 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP) — At least 60 people were killed in clashes between tribal people and government troops in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts last week, forcing a new exodus of tribals to India, the *Press Trust of India* /PTI) and news reports said Tuesday.

Soldiers and heavily-armed Moslem settlers gunned down some 50 Chakma tribals in Merung, Bhaiboncherra, and Betcherri areas and kidnapped several young women, the news agency quoted "border intelligence sources" as saying.

In an apparently unrelated incident, 10 soldiers died and many others were wounded when 30 Shanti Bahini tribal guerrillas ambushed an army camp at Dighinala last Wednesday, PTI said. The four army platoons fought back for nearly an hour, but the guerrillas retreated to their forest cover at Miani, the reports said.

Nearly 30,000 tribals, natives of the subcontinent, have left their homes for shelter in make-shift refugee camps in India's border state of Tripura, according to Indian reports. The tribals alledge that they have been subjected to renewed violence by Bangladesh Government troops since May this year. The reports said some 100 tribals had entered India following the latest violence. Tripura's state assembly was told Monday that another 60,000 had been refused entry since Bangladesh emerged independent in 1971 until October last. [passage omitted]

Committee to Probe Killings

BK250232 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0220 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The government has set up a high-power committee to probe into the killing by outlawed Shanti Bahini at Ramgarh in Khagrachari on Tuesday [23 December] night. The committee will submit its report within 15 days. Nineteen persons including women and children were killed and 39 others wounded when the so-called Shanti Bahini opened fire on a cinema hall and set fire at the adjacent bazaar.

Explosion Reported in Political Leader's Home

BK230452 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 23 (AFP) — Four people were killed and several others injured when a bomb exploded in the home of a local political leader near here, newspapers reported Tuesday. The *New Nation* reported that the explosion occurred Monday in a kitchen where campaigners of Afzal Hossain Kaiser were sleeping. Police could not say immediately if the bomb was in the kitchen or was thrown into the room, the reports said.

Mr Kaiser, unhurt in the blast, is campaigning under the ruling Jatiya Party of President H.M. Ershad in a by-election scheduled for this week for the chairmanship of a sub-district in the Gazipur area.

Delhi on Conclusion of Talks With Pakistan

BK281607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The 2-day Indo-Pakistan official-level talks concluded in Islamabad today after devising a method to break the impasse in trade. According to PTI, the two countries agreed to prepare a fresh list of items to be traded in the private sector. The talks reportedly failed to make any significant headway on reconciling Islamabad's offer of a nonaggression pact and India's offer of a treaty of peace and friendship. The two foreign secretaries focused on the finalization of a legal document formalizing the understanding reached between President Ziaul Haq and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in December last year on renouncing attacks on each other's nuclear installations.

The two sides agreed to establish telephone links to facilitate direct dialing between their capitals by April. Both the countries decided to continue discussions at the official level in March. The Indian delegation was led by Mr Venkateswaran.

Moscow Talks Held on Implementing Agreements

BK280916 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union reviewed in Moscow yesterday the implementation of agreements reached during Mr Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi last month. The Indian ambassador, Mr T.N. Kaul, had a 90-minute meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze. Later, Mr Kaul told newsmen that the focus of the discussion was on increasing trade and economic cooperation. Mr Shevardnadze praised India's policy of peace.

Tiwari Reiterates Desire for Nuclear Test Ban

BK260629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, has reiterated India's opposition to militarization of space and its desire for a total nuclear test ban. He was talking to newsmen in Rangoon at the conclusion of his visit to Burma. He stressed that India's position is clearly reflected in the Delhi Declaration signed recently by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. India and Burma signed a maritime boundary demarcation agreement during Mr Tiwari's visit.

Security To Be Increased on Bangladesh Border

BK241357 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] A consensus has been reached between Border Security Force [BSF] and Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] about stepping up vigil on the India-Bangaldesh border at their talks in Calcutta. According to a BSF spokesman, both sides have agreed for strict vigil on the border to curb illegal entry of Bangladesh nationals and smuggling.

Home Minister Concerned Over Tripura Violence

BK241656 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The center has conveyed its deep concern over the law and order situation in Tripura. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, talked to the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, over [the] telephone and urged him to take immedate steps to curb violence and protect the life and property of the people. Drawing his attention to the increased TNV [Tripura National Volunteer] violence, Mr Buta Singh assured all possible help to the state government in maintaining law and order.

A 24-hour bundh [strike] is being observed from this morning in the state. The Congress-I, which gave the call for the bundh to protest against Monday's extremist killings, claimed it to be a success. The chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, contended that it was a failure. According to him, a CPI-M sponsored 12-hour bundh in south Tripura District today was a success.

Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 4

BK250751 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In Tripura, armed TNV extremists killed four persons and injured four others at (Chatakcheri) in south Agartala last night. This comes at 48 hours after the extremist attack at Malbasa in which 10 persons were killed. The state chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, told our correspondent in Agartala today that he will be leaving for Delhi on the 4th of next month to discuss the activities of TNV extremists with central leaders.

Strike 'Paralyzes' Tripura Life

BK250857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In north Tripura life was paralyzed today in Kailashahar where a 36-hour bundh [strike] is being observed in protest against the Malbasa killings. The leader of the Congress-I and member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly, Maharani Brigu Devi, has in a telegram requested the center to extend the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to Tripura to defuse the explosive situation. In a statement issued in Agartala today, she demanded the resignation of the Left Front government for its failure to maintain law and order in the state.

Curfew Imposed After Tribal Killing

BK260311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Tripura, a curfew was imposed in Amarpur area of the state's south district following the murder of a tribal yesterday evening. He is reported to have been killed by some antisocial elements at (Soilakh), about 3 km from the subdivisional town. The chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, said additional reinforcements have been rushed to the area.

More Killed; Army To Stage March

BK260739 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tripura National Volunteers extremists killed eight more persons at Kachaura under Kamalpur police station in north Tripura District last night. This is the third incident of the kind in the state during [the] past 72 hours. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed yesterday in (Mailak) area in south Tripura following the killing of a person. The Army has been asked to stage a flag march in that area today.

South Goa Returning to Normal; 200 Arrested

BK250305 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Normalcy is fast returning in South Goa. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the Union Territory. This inspector general of police has said that the situation is under control. More than 200 antisocial elements have been rounded up. Normal traffic other than train movement has been restored. [passage omitted]

Punjab To Remain Restricted Area for Foreigners

BK261559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Punjab will continue to remain restricted area to foreigners. The Foreigners Restricted Areas Order has been extended till the 2d of July next year. No foreign passport holder can enter the state for any purpose without obtaining a special permission. An official press release issued in New Delhi says foreigners can travel through the state by rail to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh provided they do not disembark at any place in Punjab.

'Terrorist' Activities Reported in Punjab

BK241615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including a woman, were killed and one seriously injured in three separate incidents of terrorist activity today. A shopkeeper was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in village (Tin), near Dhariwal this morning in Gurdaspur District.

Two suspected terrorists shot dead a woman in Jullundur. The victim has been identified as an Akali Dal worker, Mrs Harba chan Kaur Khalsa.

In Bhatinda District, three suspected terrorists fired and seriously injured a person in a village under the Dayalpur police station.

'Terrorist' Incidents in Faridkot

BK251615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab rail traffic, which was suspended this morning on the Jullundur-Amritsar section, was restored this afternoon. The suspension followed recovery of some bomb-like devices on the track near the Amritsar railway station. The traffic was restored after the devices were removed by the police and a thorough inspection of the track.

Three persons were killed in two separate incidents of terrorist activities in Faridkot District today. Two scooter-borne terrorists shot dead two persons at (Bholiakhod) village in Moga subdivision this evening. The assailants while escaping took away the scooter of the deceased. Paramilitary forces cordoned off the whole area and launched combing operations.

In the second incident, two suspected terrorists shot dead one forest guard at village (Sadda Singawala) in Moga subdivision.

4 Killed in Kapurthala

BK270854 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, four members of a family were shot dead and one seriously injured by three suspected terrorists in a village near Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala District last night. The killed included a woman. The victims were sleeping in their house when they wer : attacked.

'Local' Congress-I Leader Killed

BK271245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, many parts of Amritsar City were placed under indefinite curfew in view of some tension and violent incidents following the killing of a local Congress-I leader. The leader, Mr Suresh Kumar, was killed and two persons including a woman were seriously injured when some suspected terrorists fired at them in Gopalgarh area. Immediately after the killing, a crowd gathered at the site and indulged in brickbatting in which some policemen, including the superintendent of police, were injured. In another incident in Hoshiarpur District, a doctor was hot dead by some unidentified gunmen near Gadhwala last night. The victim was returning home from his clinic on a scooter when he was attacked.

Student Factions Call Strike

BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text]The Punjab government has made adequate arrangements in view of a 2-day bundh [strike] called by the two factions of the All India Sikh Students Federation for tomorrow and the day after. The Punjab minister of state for home, Captain Kamaljit Singh, told the All India Radio [AIR] Chandigarh correspodent that all the district authorities have been directed to maintain

law and order at all costs. He said nobody will be allowed to disrupt normal life in the state.

In view of the bundh call, the Himachal Pradesh Roadways Transport Corporation has decided to suspend its bus services in Punjab territories from midnight tonight as a precautionary measure. A spokesman of the roadways told the AIR Simla correspondent that some buses are being diverted to avoid Punjab territory.

125 Arrested as Strike Approaches

BK281638 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Chandigarh, India, Dec 28 (AFP) — Police arrested about 125 people in Punjab Sunday as the state administration braced itself for a 48-hour general strike beginning early Monday, officials here said. A government spokesman told reporters here that most trains had been cancelled, schools and colleges ordered closed, and para-military forces deployed in strength at sensitive areas in the state.

The sponsors have announced plans to block rail and road traffic during the strike, which is to protest against the confirmation of death sentences handed down to the three Sikhs found guilty of assassinating Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984. The strikers are also demanding the release of Sikhs held in Indian jails and rehabilitation of those who deserted the Army after the 1984 Army assault on the Golden Temple, holiest of Sikh shrines.

Official sources said of the approximately 125 arrests, 50 of them were in Jullundur, an industrial town. They indicated the number could go higher by the time the strike begins at 1830 GMT Sunday. But no violence was reported. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, security forces caught 15 people after a pro-militant activist fired on a para-military Central Reserve Police (CRP) picket Sikh militant in Brahmapur village in Amritsar District Saturday night. [sentence as received] Police said the shots were fired from inside a nearby shrine, the *Press Trust of India* reported. No casualties were reported.

Amitsar city was reported peaceful Sunday after violence triggered by the killing of a local leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress Party by suspected militants overnight. The curfew clamped on the Sikh holy city following the violence was relaxed for two hours earlier in the day, without any major incident, PTI said.

Strike Evokes 'Mixed Response'

BK290944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, the 2-day bundh [strike] call has evoked mixed response on the first day today. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh while shops at most of the places are closed, government offices, banks, business establishments, and other essential services are functioning as normal. Buses and train services on the branch lines have been suspended. These services have, however, been maintained on the main routes under strict security arrangements. Police and paramilitary forces are keeping a strict vigil over the situation. No major untoward incident has been reported from anywhere.

A report from Amritsar says that almost all shops and other establishments in the interior areas of the city are closed, but some shops outside the walled city and outer localities are open.

In Jullundur, a total bundh is being observed. There has been no untoward incident so far.

Police Seize Arms, Equipment in Tamil Nadu

BK271622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, police seized arms and ammunition including sophisticated communications equipment from a van on the Madras-Tiruchirappalli Road, about 70 kilometers from Tiruchirappalli, yesterday. Three Sri Lankan militants traveling in the van were arrested. The director general of police told our Madras correspondent today that the militants belong to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO].

Meanwhile, 50 persons belonging to TELO including its secretary general, Mr Selvam, started an indefinite fast in Madras today demanding the release of the arrested men and return of arms and communication equipment.

Colombo Cites Paper on Details

BK271136 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian police have seized more than 3,000 landmines and an unspecified number of firearms from three Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists in southern India. The Indian newspaper, *The Statesman*, reported today that the three men from the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO, also had wireless communication equipment and ammunition when they were arrested in the Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu yesterday. The seizure followed with [as heard] detention of more than 100 TELO men this week in several raids on the group's hideouts in Tamil Nadu. TELO Secretary General S. Selvam, has accused the Indian police of singling out his group for what he said was humiliating treatment. He has threatened to go on an indefinite fast if the harassment does not stop immediately. The TELO, which is virtually decimated in an internecine battle with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in April this year, is reported to have closed ties with the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, DMK, Tamil Nadu's main opposition group.

According to an Indian report received by LANKA PUWATH, 40 members of the TELO were detained by the Madras police for more than 48 hours and interrogated in connection with the recent bomb blast in Tamil Nadu. Inspector general of police, C.D. Paul, told UNI *[United News of India]* new agency the TELO members had subsequently been released and the rest would be set free after questioning.

'Terrorists' Crossing into Pakistan Arrested
BK280918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has arrested two suspected terrorists when they were trying to cross over to Pakistan from Samba area of Jammu District. A BSF spokesman told PTI that some important documents and weapons were seized from them.

Newspaper Article Prompts Strike in Kashmir
BK261607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, partial hartal [strike] was observed today in Srinagar City following an article published in a local daily which reportedly hurt the religious sentiments of a community. There were some incidents of stone throwing in which two vehicles were damaged. According to an official spokesman, 11 persons have been arrested in this connection. The editor of the daily has also been arrested. The office of the newspaper and its press have been sealed.

'Official-Level' Talks With India Begin

BK270915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Official-level talks between India and Pakistan began in Islamabad today. The foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, is leading the 5-member Indian delegation, while his counterpart, Mr Abdus Sattar, is heading the Pakistani side. The 2-day talks will cover bilateral relations and steps to improve them. Soon after Mr Venkateswaran's arrival, the two foreign secretaries had discussions without aides for an hour. Later, Mr Venkateswaran called on the Pakistan minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, Mr Venkateswaran said that the objective of his visit is to strengthen the mutual understanding and sort out those questions which tend to cloud our relations. Welcoming Mr Venkateswaran, the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Sattar, said that his country will extend full coopration in the fulfillment of the task that we have been assigned by our governments.

India's Venkateswarn, Noorani Meet

BK271320 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr A. P. Venkateswaran, called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. The minister of state for foreign affairs expressed Pakistan's firm desire to have friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbors, particularly India. He also told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan would never lag behind in making sincere efforts for the normalization of its relations with India.

Mr Venkateswaran told Mr Zain Noorani that India also desires normalization of relations. He hoped that the atmosphere of distrust would be overcome by the efforts of leaders of both sides. He also referred to the recent meeting of the interior secretaries of the countries and said it would go a long way in improving the relations.

India Propaganda Matter of Concern

BK271540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The first round of official-level talks between India and Pakistan on normalization of relations was held in Islamabad today. The two sides held indepth discussions on matters relating to mutual apprehensions and on efforts to remove misunderstanding between the two countries. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to further improve them.

Zain Noorani also told the Indian foreign secretary that the propaganda of certain Indian leaders against Pakistan is a matter of great concern. Pakistan, on the contrary, has been observing great restraint and patience because it believes that this is the only way to normalize relations. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Further

BK271338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 27 (AFP) — Pakistan Saturday formally conveyed its anxiety over Indian leaders' "anti-Pakistan belligerent propaganda" as more talks began between the two neighbours on normalising their strained relations, official sources said. Indian Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran was told by Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani after arriving here for the two days of talks that despite propaganda by some Indian leaders "Pakistan was showing restraint and moderation". Pakistan believed that this was the only way to proceed further towards normalisation of relations marred by three wars in the past 40 years, Mr Noorani said.

India has criticised U.S. arms shipments to Pakistan and expressed fears of Islamabad's nuclear programme, which officials here insist is only for peaceful purposes. The official news agency *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) quoted Mr Venkateswaran in his meeting with Mr Noorani as saying he hoped that efforts from both sides would overcome the "atmosphere of mistrust".

The Indian foreign secretary also held detailed discussions with his Pakistani counterpart Abdus Sattar, as a follow up to a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistani Premier Mohammed Khan Junejo during last November's Bangalore summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Mr Venkateswaran said he hoped his talks with Mr Sattar "will remove the questions which tend to cloud the confidence in our relationship", adding, "we may not attain all but we will achieve some of the objectives as laid down by our prime ministers."

The foreign secretary-level talks closely follow a meeting earlier this month of the two countries' home secretaries, who decided to strengthen cooperation in checking illegal border crossing by terrorists and drug smugglers.

The Indian foreign secretary said efforts will also be made to enhance an understanding already reached between the two countries to conclude an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

India's Venkateswaran, Sattar Talk

BK271606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan — Mr Venkateswaran and Mr Abdus Sattar — had the first round of talks in Islamabad today. They first met without aides for an hour. Later, the full delegations had a 4-hour meeting.

The All India Radio Islamabad correspondent, R.K. Mathur, understands that the talks covered the draft of the treaty under which the two countries will refrain from attacking the nuclear installations of the other. The two sides also discussed Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Views were also exchanged on the security perception and the situation in the Indian Ocean.

Our correspondent adds that the question of allowing more private trade from India also figured in the discussion. The Indian side signified its readiness to send a railway delegation for concluding an agreement to open the Khokhrapar-Munabao route. Steps to increase people-to-people contact like easing of travel restrictions also came up for consideration. The second round of talks is scheduled for tomorrow morning. Mr Vekate swaran today had a 45-minute meeting with Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

India's Venkateswaran, Junejo Meet

BK281529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary A. P. Venkateswaran called on the prime minister in Rawalpindi this evening. He conveyed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's message of good wishes to Mohammad Khan Junejo who also expressed similar sentiments. The prime minister expressed happiness on learning from the Indian foreign secretary that the latter's talks with the Pakistani foreign secretary had been satisfactory.

The prime minister told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan sincerely desires to have good relations with India and he hopes that the latter, too, is desirous of having such a relationship with Pakistan. Mohammad Khan Junejo recalled his very fruitful talks with Rajiv Gandhi in Bangalore and expressed happiness that decisions then made by the two prime ministers are being followed up with immediate and effective steps.

Joint News Conference Held

BK281712 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and India have reaffirmed their commitment to early normalization of relations on the basis of the Simla agreement and in keeping with the visit of the Pakistan president to New Delhi in December last year. Both countries have also agreed to continue the dialogue at an early and mutally convenient date at the foreign secretaries level in New Delhi. This was stated by the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India at a joint news conference in Islamabad this evening after the conclusion of the 2-day official-level talks. Answering a question on the proposed draft agreement on not to attack each other's nuclear installations, the Indian foreign secretary said considerable progress has been made. He expressed the hope that it will be finalized soon. He said the agreement would be signed irrespective of misunderstandings on each other's nuclear program.

Further on News Conference

BK291012 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Considerable progress has been made with regard to the proposed India-Pakistan draft agreement for not attacking each other's nuclear installations. This was stated at a joint press conference of Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries at the conclusion of official-level talks in Islamabad yesterday. They said an in-depth discussion was held on this proposed agreement, but some technical aspects remain to be discussed. Their talks have generated better understanding and progress has been made toward normalization of bilateral relations.

The Indian foreign secretary said he exchanged views with his Pakistani counterpart on the issue of terrorism and noted differences in the views of the two countries in the light of evidence provided by the two governments and, therefore, they also discussed ways and means to remove these differences.

Answering a question about Kashmir, the Indian foreign secretary said this issue is also included in the Simla agreement and the effort now being made by the two sides is to remove obstacles and to clear the air so that they will be able to resolve this issue in a congenial atmosphere.

Commenting on the construction of Wular barrage on the Jhelum River by India, the Indian foreign secretary said the Sind Basin Commission of the two countries has looked into this issue and if the commission is unable to resolve it, the two governments will sit together and strive for the solution of this problem. He said the two sides held general discussion on halting the arms race in the region and stressed the need to check the possibility of such a race which may lead to the induction of highly sophisticated and dangerous weapons into this region.

The Indian foreign secretary said the whole gamut of issues were reviewed during the talks and that he is fully satisfied with the outcome of these negotiations.

The (?Pakistani) foreign secretary said the visit of his Indian counterpart has provided them with the opportunity to hold detailed discussions on bilateral relations in a positive and constructive manner. He said the two countries are striving for an early normalization of bilateral relations which will not only benefit the two peoples, but also promote peace and stability in the region.

About the Indian military exercises near the Pakistani border, the Indian foreign secretary said he has informed Pakistan that there has been no movement of troops.

The Indian foreign secretary said the meetings of the India-Pakistan joint commission and the subcommission will be held in the first quarter of next year.

The Indian foreign secretary said that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit Pakistan before the end of next year.

Ziaul Haq Receives Message

BK291022 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary Venkateswaran called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday. He conveyed to the president messages of good wishes from President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He also apprised

the president of his talks with Pakistani foreign secretary and expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

The president told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan has been resolutely pursuing a policy of good-neighborly relations.

Economic Commission Meeting With PRC Continues

PRC Minister, Junejo Meet

BK241700 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, identified the need for expanding the volume of trade in exploring new avenues of economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Talking to the Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Lu Xuejian, in Rawalpindi this evening, the prime minister expressed keen interest in the working of the four export (?profiting) zones established in China. The Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade apprised the prime minister of the important matters relating to bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He also briefed the prime minister about the current deliberations of the Pak-China joint economic committee.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

BK250831 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and China signed an agreement in Islamabad today to enhance cooperation in various fields. The agreement was signed on behalf of Pakistan by the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, and the Chinese vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Lu Xuejian, on behalf of his government.

Earlier, the final session of the third meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held. China agreed to import 10,000 tons of cotton and two bulk carriers produced at the Karachi shipyard and engineering works.

PRC Official, Finance Minister Meet

BK260619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto has said that the existing Sino-Pakistani deep and fraternal relations are the best example of mutual cooperation and understanding. He was speaking after the signing of a Pakistan-China agreement in Islamabad yesterday.

Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Lu Xuejian in his speech expressed the confidence that the Sino-Pakistani relations in economic and trade fields will grow further in the future.

The next Pakistan-China joint committee session will be held in Beijing.

PRC Boundary Committee Delegation Arrives

BK201148 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] The second session of the Pakistan-China joint Boundary Committee begins in Islamabad tomorrow. A 10-member Chinese delegation arrived in Islamabad this morning from Karachi for the session. Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative at the airport, the delegation leader, Mr (Shu Guanjin), said the joint boundary inspection is a regular feature, carried out in accordance with the protocol signed by the two countries in 1965.

Documents Signed

BK250302 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Documents relating to proceedings of the second session of the Pakistan-China joint border inspection committee were signed in Lahore yesterday. They were signed by the 10-member PRC delegation leader (Shu Guanjin) and Foreign Ministry director General Karamatullah Khan Ghowri.

Yaqub Khan To Discuss Afghanistan in Beijing

BK251408 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister on his way out to Beijing has listed Afghanistan as one of the subjects he plans to discuss with China in the light of what he called important developments in the Soviet attitude. The Pakistan-China commonality of interests flows from geographic proximity to Afghanistan and the spillover impact of the turmoil and the geostrategic implications of the Soviet occupation.

China has been closely supportive of the UN demand that all foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan, letting Afghan refugees return home in honor and safety, and the Afghan people be enabled to set up a government of their choice in a sovereign nonaligned Afghanistan. Beijing has pursued the question of Soviet withdrawal at bilateral level too, prescribing a Soviet pullout as one of the three conditions for normalization of Sino-Soviet relations — The other two being Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia and Soviet troops pullback from the Sino-Soviet border. Side by side, with a message to Pakistan, the USSR has also notified China for the first time of its readiness to discuss the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. It is especially this distinct change in Moscow's attitude, presumably in pursuance of the Kremlin's Asian peace plan, that Beijing and Islamabad wish to discuss during Mr Yaqub Khan's current visit to Beijing. Of course, there will be other subjects, such as the security environment of the region, but it appears that Afghanistan would claim pride of place.

The Pakistan foreign minister has said we have taken careful note of the very positive change in the statements of the Soviet leaders. Islamabad's frank and positive response is understandable. It gives hope to Pakistan's desire for peace. Further, the presence of 3 million Afghan refugees — the largest refugee population in the world — is undoubtedly creating problems, both economic and political, and Pakistan wishes them resolved smoothly. The Afghan refugees themselves are not to blame, but the massive problem in itself provides cover to antisocial elements to indulge in arms and drug trafficking and create the confusion and chaos that tends to destabilize the country.

Pakistan cannot afford the strain on its resources at a time it needs to devote all its energies to developing the country's economy, stabilizing its policy and underwriting its security. The Afghan refugees also are very concerned at the rootless life they are having to lead in tents and kacha [mud] houses away from familiar ancestral settings, and long to return to their homes and hearths. For the Soviets too, the continuing loss of life and limb in a bottomless guerrilla war has become a bleeding wound and Mr Gorbachev has rightly initiated moves to liquidate a grievous liability of the Brezhnev era.

But in the last analysis, it is neither smart Geneva formulations nor positive Kremlin statements that would end the ongoing tragedy in Afghanistan, but how the pious wishes translate themselves into action. If Afghans continue to be scared by whatever is happening outdoors, the 3 million Afghan men, women, and children living in Pakistan, no matter how precariously, would never venture to go back. Nearly 100,000 males have flooded out this year bringing with them the message: It is still not safe to return home. Unless the relentless outflow is stemmed by making it safe for them to stay back, the hope of a solution will prove elusive. The Pakistan and Chinese leaders conferring in Beijing may agree on a positive response to the diplomatic initiatives of the new Soviet leadership, but it is with the Kabul regime's [word indistinct] on the ground that will make the decisive impact.

Delhi Reports Iranian Naval Officer Killed

BK270856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] A senior Iranian naval officer was gunned down near his official residence in Karachi on Thursday [25 December] night. Police sources described it as a political assassination.

Situation in Karachi Reportedly 'Normal'

BK271714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Karachi Administration has announced that a 15-hour curfew relaxation will be given in the Orangi area tomorrow morning, while in Sohrab Goth the curfew restrictions will be relaxed from 0500-1000 [0000-0500 GMT] in the morning and again from 1700-2000 in the evening. The situation in the city remained normal today.

Curfews To Be Relaxed 29 Dec

BK281715 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The situation in Karachi remained peaceful today. The local administration has announced that curfew restrictions will be relaxed from 0500-2000 [0000-1500 GMT] tomorrow in Orangi, Orangi Extension, and Sohrab Goth areas.

Bhutto Reportedly Unable to Visit France

BK241617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Miss Benazir Bhutto says she has been debarred from leaving Pakistan. Talking to newsmen in Karachi, she said she has been told of a federal order that denies her the right to leave the country. She had a plan to visit France to see her mother and sister, Miss Bhutto said.

Involvement in Iraqi Jet Hijacking Denied
LD260603 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Friday officially denied any involvement in the Thursday hijacking of an Iraqi passenger plane which exploded after an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry stated that the Islamic Republic has explicitly declared time and again that it is against any inhuman acts which may disturb security of civil aviation. "We condemn any moves which may threaten the lives of innocent passengers," he said.

Some sixty people were reportedly killed in the explosion of the Boeing 737 which was hijacked shortly after it left Baghdad airport for Amman Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly refuted Iraqi claims that Iran was involved in the hijacking, saying that the Baghdad regime was desperately trying to compensate for its bitter defeats in the Karbala-4 operational theater.

The Foreign Ministry official described as "suspicious" the coincidence of the hijacking with the ongoing victories of Iran's Islamic forces in the southern war fronts, "particularly with regard to the Iraqi regime's vicious record in attacking civilian airliners."

Iran's Islamic combatants launched a lightning offensive against Iraqi positions in the southern fronts at 1900 hours GMT Wednesday scoring outstanding victories. At least 1,500 enemy troops were killed, 4,500 others wounded and more than 100 were taken captive and transferred behind the fronts. Two enemy warplanes were also shot down during the operation in addition to the destruction of 100 heavy and light military vehicles and a tank squadron.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman also urged international aviation experts to follow up the incident and expose the facts behind it.

In the course of the six years of the Iraqi imposed war, the Baghdad government has repeatedly threatened civil aviation on Iran's air space. Two years ago Iraq shot down a passenger plane carrying former Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahya en route to Tehran. Another Iraqi attack on a passenger plane in southern Iran resulted in the martyrdom of tens of Iranian officials.

Khamene'i Gives Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon
LD261537 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Today's Friday prayers religious-political rites were held throughout the country with great pomp and ceremony. In Tehran the God-fearing, faithful, and committeed people, congregating at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed this Muhammadan tradition under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his prayer sermons Tehran's Friday imam referred to the wicked deeds perpetrated by the Iraqi warmongering regime, saying: Though these wicked deeds and raids on populated centers, hospitals, and schools are nothing new to our nation, we have retaliated against these bestial raids on the battlefronts. The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts have been concentrated on retaliating in kind against the Iraqi regime's continued wicked deeds, but since our combatants do not strike at the innocent and oppressed Iraqi people, our attention has been and will be concentrated on the industrial, economic, and military areas and on those places where the Iraqi regimes's mercenaries are assembled and concentrated.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: The Iraqi regime's deep fear of the decisive operations by Islam's combatants, which we have promised the people, which the people are demanding from the combatants, and which will be carried out at an appropriate time in the future, has prompted that oppressive and tyrannical regime to launch barbarous raids on our populated centers and to massacre the innocent people of such cities as Bakhtaran, Eslamabad, and others.

Referring to the dispatch of the great 100,000 strong Mohammad Corps — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion — and the combatants' firm resolve until final victory, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: The assembling of this corps has produced a decisive effect on the world political climate and has shaken Saddam's supporters, who had such high hopes in him, to the depth of their bones; and Saddam and his supporters should know that there is no other way out vis-a-vis the movement of the Mohammad Corps.

The president of the Republic added: Though we have never left and shall never leave unanswered any move by the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime, nevertheless the Islamic combatants in their small, limited Karbala-4 operations have administered such a rebuff that the enemy shall not not recover from it for a long time.

Stressing the preparedness by various strata of the people to administer the final fateful blow, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The general mobilization and filling of the fronts with troops is our perennial duty and the move toward the fronts should not have any hitches, so that whenever our intrepid commanders deem the time appropriate, they can take the necessary decisions; and the zealous young men and combatants, particularly those who have acquired combat preparedness and knowledge, should await the orders and call of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Army, and the mobilization of the meek.

Continuing his sermon, the president of the Republic referred to the convening of the great conference of solidarity with the Iraqi nation in Tehran, and said: The world political climate has become more informed and aroused by the convening of this conference; and now the Iraqi nation has expectations from its chosen representatives, and those taking part in this conference should pay heed to the sensitive stage they are going through and what they are thinking about. Furthermore, they should bear in mind Iraq's future problems and its distant future, and the world

too, should look seriously at this conference which is made up of the chosen representatives of the Iraqi nation.

In this same connection, referring to the silence of the mass media, Tehran's Friday imam said: By concealing the news of this conference, the world media will not solve the problem of world arrogance; and they should know that this conference will play an important role in Iraq's future and that the future awaiting the arrogant and their mercenaries in Iraq will not alter, but rather it is the Iraqi nation and its chosen representatives who can chart Iraq's future.

Referring to the bloody clashes in Lebanon, the president of the Republic said: The United States, Israel, and the collaborators of the United States and Israel are deeply worried about the anti-Israeli struggle deep within Lebanon, and for this reason they attempt to sow discord among Lebanese Muslims and Palestinians; and by supporting our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers we condemn such people as the hireling leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Arab reaction, and also the regime occupying Jerusalem that has caused all this bloodshed, and we insistently call on our Muslim brothers in Lebanon and Palestine to accept the plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran as soon as possible. Instead of killing one another they should point their gun barrels at the common enemy — Israel!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i once again stressed: The subject of fighting Israel occupies first place in our foreign policy. It is impossible for us to renounce, under any circumstances, our hostility toward usurping Israel. You should know that strategically we will have a definite war and we will adopt a decisive approach toward the Zionist regime, and anyone who wages war against Israel will enjoy our respect. Therefore, the Palestinians and Lebanese should not be seeking pretexts to fight one another.

While expressing thanks for the selflessness shown by the Iranian people in sending help to the flood victims, he said: The Iranian nation, despite the problem of the war, has rendered worthy help to flood-stricken compatriots and we hope that this assistance will continue as before and that the flood victims themselves, too, by displaying more mobility, should strive to overcome this disaster.

SAIRI Chairman on Islamic Resurgence

LD261420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim was the pre-sermon speaker of the Friday prayers in Tehran today.

While referring to the point that the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution has caused an upsurge in the nation of Islam, he stated: When world arrogance witnessed this Islamic resurgence and felt that its interests were endangered, it began its plots against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the most important of these arrogant plots being the imposition of war against Iran by the Iraqi regime. While pointing to the sufferings of the Iraqi nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim remarked: Saddam's regime is relying on three pillars: The first pillar comprises the security and intelligence organizations; the second is the policy of repression and terror; and the third pillar is the support extended to Iraq by world arrogance and regional reactionary countries. However, in spite of the existing repression in Iraq, and all this support, we can see that Saddam's regime is sustaining repeated defeats. This regime is moving toward a most disgraceful defeat.

Continuing his speech, the chairman of the SAIRI reviewed the reasons for the convening of the Conference on Solidarity With the Iraqi People and stated: In this conference, representatives from all strata of the Iraqi people, the clergy, ulema, tribes, and Kurds have come together so that they may declare to the world that Saddam's regime is rejected by the people of Iraq and that they will, in step with the Iraqi people, continue the battle and the [word distinct] until the devil has been overthrown and until a just government accepted by the Iraqi nation is established.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim added: In the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, details of the ways and strategic course of the Iraqi nation will be specified so that it may act as a charter for the future of that country, wherein, the Iraqi nation, despite its ethnic groups and various religious sects, will have equality before the law for all.

Iraqi Solidarity Conference Opens in Tehran

Khamene'i Addresses Conference

LD241254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People [conferance-e hamyari-ye mellat-e Iraq] was opened in Tehran this morning with a speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

According to our correspondent's report, in this conference which was convened for the sake of uniting all the Muslim and combative Iraqi groups and for drawing up the program of the struggles of the Muslim Iraqi nation against the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq, a large number of leaders, officials, members, and representatives of various groups and organizations that are opposed to the Iraqi regime, as well as a number of political and religious figures of the Islamic world from Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Libya, are participating.

In the conference inauguration ceremony, Chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyid 'Ali Jamar-Hashemi, in a speech talked about the latest developments in the Islamic Revolution of Iraq. Referring to the goals of the conference, he expressed his hope that this conference would be useful for uniting all the Iraqi opposition groups and drawing up a continuous program for fighting against the Iraqi regime.

Then President Khamene'i spoke, describing this conference as a turning point in the history of the Iraqi nation. He said: This conference can be effective in the future of Iraq and in the state and condition of that country. This would depend upon the seriousness, endeavour, and realism of you, dear brothers, of which we are hopeful, and the Iraqi nation also partakes in this

hope. On the eve of a historical experiment and at a sensitive juncture in its eventful life, the Iraqi nation is justified in pinning its hope upon constructive and capable individuals.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Without doubt, one of the main figures in the material and spiritual destruction inflicted upon the Iraqi people is Saddam Husayn, who has completely ignored all the values held sacred by the Iraqi people, by Islam, by Arabism, and non-Arab nationalities in Iraq; who has inflicted a hard and disgraceful calamity upon the Iraqi children; and who has denied them any possibility for self-expression.

The president added: The Arab nations and the entire Islamic nation is justified in asking the Iraqi regime why, at a time when the Islamic world is faced with the daily increasing conspiracies of world arrogance, is more than ever in need of unity and solutions to its problems, and is expending all its material and human resources for getting rid of these problems; and at a time when the active strength of a fledgling Islamic Republic would have been able to raise the morale of the Arabs and give them the promise of [the restoration of] Islamic glory, why at such a time, instead of siding with this front-running and revolutionary nation and collaborating with it, they wage war against it and engage the effective and helpful forces of the Islamic Republic in self-defense and the defense of its revolution.

Continuing his speech, President Khamene'i referred to the common moral and historical heritage of the Iranian and Iraqi nations, the existence of the holy shrines [in Iraq] and the role of religious seminaries in an ancient affinity between the two nations, and said: As a friend and as a nation which has the longest common border with Iraq and which has been the victim of aggression by the regime of that country and has been forced into a destructive war, we cannot be indifferent to the future of Iraq, which could continue such a situation in the future. Due to geographical and political reasons, any move that would pose a threat against Iraq's territorial integrity is also a hostile action against us.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Recognized international borders between us and Iraq would remain in effect, and the political future of Iraq, which is something that should be decided by the people of that country, should be settled in such a way that would guarantee its territorial integrity.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the opening ceremony of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, in addition to the participation of 423 leaders and officials of various Muslim and combative Iraqi groups from various countries, also present were:Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Karrubi; Secretary of the Combative Clergy Association Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani; Supervisor of the Islamic Propaganda Organization Jannati; Chairman of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Colonel Sohrabi; and a number of Majlis deputies and national figures.

SAIRI Chairman's Address

LD241434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, after the speech by Khamene'i, Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim made a speech about the difficulties and afflictions of the Iraqi people, the future outlook of Iraq after Saddam's downfall, and the SAIRI role. Referring to the daily increasing operations by Iraqi mujahidin and fighters, he said: We expect the delivery of the final blow upon the Ba'thist-Zionist regime. At the same time, we notice that the Iraqi nation does not afford recognition to that regime and is fighting against it.

The SAIRI chairman, continuing his speech, referred to the unity between the Turks, Kurds, Arabs, and the Iraqi ulema and the need for unity among all the Muslims of that country. He said: At this juncture, we desperately need real unity and we should not bring to bear any sectarian or racial differences or differences in viewpoints and political aspirations. The aim is not that the Shi'ites become Sunnis or Sunnis become Shi'ites; but all of us should act from a united political and propaganda position.

He added: As we have done in the past, we should not allow the Iraqi regime to take a fresh breath; and this would be the only solution for the Iraqi nation. The Iraqi regime is forcing the Iraqi nation into submission with complete savagery; but we should make plans to see how we can help that nation along the path of its struggle, which is the path of the martyrs and saints of Islam.

Continuing his speech, he said: What is at issue is the struggle of the entire nation against the regime. We shall continue this struggle until the complete destruction and downfall of the Iraqi regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim then referred to the conspiracy of world arrogance that is trying to portray the imposed war as the war bwtween Persians and Arabs, and said: This war is the war between the oppressed and the arrogant, between good and evil. We believe that this war should continue until the final downfall of the regime ruling Iraq.

At the end of his speech, he referred to the positions of SAIRI, and said: The issue of the holy war is one of the important issues of SAIRI. SAIRI is not a government in exile but is an organization that strengthens the desire for holy war and for struggle. SAIRI follows the goals of the Iraqi nation and will continue its holy war.

Velayati Addresses Banquet

LD251423 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati speaking in a dinner banquet given in honour of the guests attending the 'Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation', here Wednesday night said that the Iraqi opposition groups should make full use of the present conditions and opportunities. The Iraqi opposition, he added is going through a

crucial stage, along with the rest of the Iraqi people in the struggle against the ruling fascist regime. In this struggle they enjoy backing of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran, Velayati added.

At present, he added, the Iraqi regime is more vulnerable than ever and the defence put up by the Muslim combatants of Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war, has paved the way for the downfall of the Baghdad regime.

Elsewhere in his speech, he said the disclosure of the crimes and atrocities of the Iraqi ruler to the world will acquaint the world with Saddam's true barbaric nature. World public opinion, he added, has come to realise that survival of the Iraqi regime would merely prolong the perpetration of injustice, and will result in destruction of Iraq's human and economic resources as well as pave the way for continued presence of global oppressors in the region.

Downfall of the Iraqi regime, he pointed out, will result in a lasting peace and unity of Muslims in the region.

Velayati referred to alliance of regimes of Baghdad, Amman, Cairo, and Tel Aviv, as the major obstacle on the way of establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. Ouster of the Iraqi regime, he told the visitors, will endanger existence of the Zionist regime and will intensify the struggle of Muslims against the Zionist state. Velayati further described the Iraqi aggression against Iran, the Zionist attacks on Lebanon and occupation of parts of that country, and attacks of world oppressors against revolutionary countries such as Libya and Syria as a by-product of the unholy alliance of Baghdad, Amman, Cairo and Tel Aviv.

In his concluding remarks Dr Velayati expressed hope the conference would further unify the Iraqi opposition groups and accelerate overthrow of the Baghdad regime.

Musavi on Saddam's 'Downfall'

LD251326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, speaking at the second meeting of the Conference of Solidarity with the Iraqi People and expounding on the positions adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war, this morning emphasized that Saddam's downfall will pave the way for a lasting peace in the region.

Our correspondent reports from this conference that it is being attended by large groups of leaders; responsible officials, members, representatives of parties, organizations and groups opposing the Saddam regime; and a number of ulema and political and religious figures from the Islamic world from Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Libya. After a speech made by Abu Ahmad, the educational official of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq on the role of the mobilization in the future of Iraq's Islamic Revolution and the singing of a number of revolutionary songs by Iraqi POW's, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, expressing appreciation for the participation by our fighting Iraqi brothers in this conference and their solidarity in fighting Iraq's Zionist regime, referred to their presence as indicative of the continuation along the path of struggle and the perpetuation of the liberation movements. Addressing those attending the conference, he said: Today you shall be able to play a lofty role in Iraq's history.Iraq belongs to the Iraqi nation and just as today we wish to cut short the aggressive hand of the United States by putting into effect Islam's revolutionary decrees, we believe that no hand of covetousness should be extended toward Iraq. It is the Iraqi nation that will bring about a government of its choosing; and undoubtedly with the downfall of Saddam the possibility of establishing a lasting peace will be created.

The prime minister added: It was a mistake when certain regional regimes tied their futures and aspirations to those of the Iraqi regime. So far the Iraqi regime has rained hundreds of missiles and bombs on our border cities and war zones; nevertheless, it has suffered a relentless defeat. Mr Musavi said: Certain regional countries think that after Saddam it will be their countries' turn. This is misguided thinking planted in the minds of regional politicians by Saddam and his agents. We candidly proclaim that after Saddam, it will be the turn of peace, construction, and stability in the interest of the nations; and should another war flare up after Saddam, what is certain is that it would be a battle against Israel — and Saddam constitutes the first earthwork in this battle. Therefore, it is perfectly obvious that with Saddam's downfall the path will be paved for waging battle against Israel and its acolytes and toward political cooperation in the Persian Gulf.

Continuing his speech the prime minister said: Selecting the conference venue in Tehran is nothing fortuitous and is not a matter of choice. We are now fighting against the Baghdad ruling regime along a front 100 kilometers long and we are determined to continue along this path until final victory. SAIRI exists as a central core of this fight and is paving the way to coordinating all the struggles along this path. The prime minister added: We deem that the greatest victory is returning to ourselves, and we perceive the greatest dangers as emanating from the culture of veering towards the West and toward lack of independence.

In conclusion, the prime minister emphasized the necessity of preserving unity until securing final victory and called on the conference participants to put aside all their differences under the banner of Islam, brotherhood, and fraternity, and then to proceed to translate words into action under the divine banner of Islam and the sacred Islamic aspirations.

SAIRI Spokesman Speaks

LD251430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mahmud al-Hashimi made a speech to a meeting of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People calling on the groups opposing the regime ruling in Iraq, by relying on Islamic principles, to beware of discord and differences, to adopt as a yardstick

the true ideological school of Islam, and to strive toward a practical and objective realization of Islam. Reviewing the history of the Islamic struggles waged by the Iraqi people, he emphasized: Only the followers of Islam and the Koran can save the Iraqi people from the evil of Iraq's criminal government.

Emphasizing the fact that only the Iraqi people have the right to determine Iraq's future, the SAIRI spokesman said that any ties between Iraqi dissidents and the agents affiliated with either East or West are a deviation, adding: Having links with the East and West will harm the people's struggle and will be instrumental in destroying the deep-oted, worthy culture of the Iraqi people.

He called on all forces opposing the regime ruling Iraq to behave with sincerity toward the people and to utilize all their material and moral capabilities to address the fundamental issue of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq and the overthrow of the Saddam regime, and to refrain from discussing divisive issues regarding Iraq's political future.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mahmud al-Hashimi, reviewing the developments in the imposed war, referred to the war front against the aggressor mercenaries of the Iraqi regime as a vast open front and a golden opportunity for all the genuine forces opposing the Saddam regime to demonstrate their sincerity and firm resolve in waging decisive armed struggle for the overthrow of the Saddam regime.

In conclusion, while emphasizing the need to continue an armed struggle, he called on Iraqi mujahidin to adopt the martyr Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr as their revolutionary model!

Musavi-Ardabili Address

LD271221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] On the 4th day of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, three captured Iraqis, expressing joy that they have been saved from the Iraqi regime and that they are the guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, displayed a large placard on which thousands of Iraqi POW's had signed their names with their blood, requesting Iranian officials to allow them to participate in the imposed war.

Musavi-Ardabili, head of the State Supreme Court, while expressing hope for the successful achievement of this conference with regard to Iraq's future, and referring to the imposed war of the Iraqi regime against Iran, stated: We are not waging war against the Iraqi nation but against a bloodsucking regime which is crazily continuing its crimes. That regime tried to annihilate the Iraqi nation before its attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and due to this very reason you have to shoulder the responsibility of struggling to liberate the Iraqi people.

The head of the State Supreme Court added: This war that has been imposed on the two nations of Iran and Iraq is a war against all divine and humanitarian values and all the liberation movements of the world. In the midst of this it is evident to everyone how much the propoganda mass media of the world have benefitted from the consequences of this war and are sowing discord between the two nations. All analyses and commentaries are deceitful, and they all aim to portray this war as an ethnic war on the borders. All these efforts to cover up Saddam's crimes are aimed at obliterating the true character of this war.

Musavi-Ardabili stated: Our devoted troops are well aware of the oppression the Iraqi nation is suffering; because of this, with the convening of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, a move and base toward the liberation and future of Iraq will be beginning. You should know that the psychological war conducted by world arrogance, to place obstacles between you and us, has not ended, and propaganda machines are trying to portray Iran's decision to eliminate Saddam as an expansionist drive. You must struggle to destroy this psychological war, and every freed Iraqi should know that all Islamic Republic of Iran officials and the Iranian nation distance themselves from the idea of expansionism. The Islamic Republic of Iran is following the objective of an eventual independent and liberated Iraq which will no more protect the interests of the enemies of God, and while respecting its neighbors, will provide security and stability to the Iraqi people who will themselves determine the future of their country and the establishment of their government.

In conclusion, Musavi-Ardabili stressed: The enemies of Islam must know that any threat against the nation and territory of Iraq will be considered as a threat against us.

Hezbollah, Libyan Officials Speak

LD271152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Continuing the work of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, Mr Sayyid Ibrahim al-Amin, one of the leaders of the Lebanese Hezbollah, in a speech expressing his pleasure at participating in the conference, said [announcer read]: The holy have graciously commanded that Israel be wiped from the face of the earth! In Lebanon we are not fighting for Lebanese rule. Its geography and maps are no cause for honor to us. What really brings dignity and honor are the great efforts throughout history. We are continuing the war for Islam and its stability.

According to this report, the Libyan charge d' affaires to the Islamic Republic of Iran, then, in a short speech addressed to the conference participants, said [announcer read]: We proclaim our solidarity with you so that the destiny of the Iraqi people can be realized. Every person and every group, every party and every organization that bears arms and fights against the Iraqi regime is revolutionary and enjoys God's support. He emphasized: We are hopeful of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in this war since it has resulted in a great many achievements for the Islamic nations. In conclusion, the Libyan charge d'affaires, in declaring that Libya, Iran, and Syria were supporting the Iraqi fighting forces, emphasized the necessity of waging battle until the victory of Islam over world arrogance. He wished the Iraqi fighters victory in this sacred battle.

To end today's meeting, the following spoke: Dr Abu 'Ali Sayyid al-Yasiri and Hojjat ol-Eslam Nu'mani, among those opposing the Saddam regime; Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Mufattih, a fighting

clergyman from Syria; Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Khatimi, an Iraqi struggler; Mr Taj al-'Imad, an Iraqi Kurdish fighter; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Sami al-Badri, an Iraqi clergyman. They spoke on the need for unity and expanding the struggle in various dimensions toward the overthrow of the Iraqi Zionist regime.

Iraqi Kurdish Officials Interviewed

LD271308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Idris Barzan, from the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan; Fu'ad Ma'sum, from the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, and Rasul Mamend, from the Socialist Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, who are in Tehran participating in the Conference of Solidarity with the Iraqi People, were interviewed by our correspondents.

One of the participants in this interview, referring to the results of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, said: This seminar was very successful. Most Iraqi organizations and groups, from whatever ethnic group, took part. It is extremely fortunate that the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in convening this meeting. In this conference various issues were raised. Among them were Iraq's future, how it should be governed, the removal of differences among groups, and the joint organization of the struggle for the toppling of the Saddam regime in Iraqi Kurdistan. Also discussed were the question of the liquidation of oppression against the Kurdish people in a future Iraq and constant cooperation with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq. He said good results had been achieved.

In connection with the ties between Iraqi Kurds and Iran, he said: At present, Iran, thanks to cooperation with various Iraqi Kurdish groups, is endeavoring extremely successfully toward dealing a blow on the Iraqi Army. We have already observed the results of this in a number of operations. We believe that Iran is extremely important in connection with setting up on its territory a base of dissidents and opposition to the Iraqi Government.

Another of the participants in the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, in connection with the total violation of human rights in Iraq and the massacre of defenseless Iranian and Iraqi peoples by the Iraqi Zionist regime, said: Unfortunately, international forums and the world mass media have all remained totally silent on all these crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime, particularly the use of chemical weapons in the war against Iran. Even the merciless massacres of the Iraqi people by the Iraqi rulers have not attracted their attention.

Another participant in this interview, in connection with the intervention by Turkey in the internal affairs of Iraqi Kurdistan, said: It is essential to note that we never interfere in Turkey's internal problems. In the future, we have no intention of clashing with the Turkish Government. However, we believe the Turkish Government's propaganda, which runs contrary to the truth, is tantamount to that government's backing for the Iraqi Zionist system. We hope that the Turkish Government, while paying heed to Iraq's future, would pay attention to the injustices carried out by the Iraqi regime against the Kurdish people and would leave the Iraqi people free to choose their future government!

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks

LD281301 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation (IPC) is the first practical and coordinated step towards liberation of the Iraqi people from Ba'th tyranny, said Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the final session of the IPC confab here Saturday. Rafsanjani emphasized that the IPC secretariat should follow up the decisions taken by the conference and pinpoint the weak point of any participant group.

The Majlis speaker said that the Karbala-4 operations (launched by Iran Wednesday night) was a blow to stop the Ba'thist regime's atrocities, specifically its attacks on economic centers and residential areas. He also said that the Ba'th Party had conspired to hinder the holding of the conference by intensifying air raids on Iran's civilian areas. But Iran's Islamic combatants gifted the conference with the Karbala-4 operation which was a blow to extinguish the fire that Saddam was fanning. The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said the Iranian combatants undertook the operation in what he described as a very difficult and strategic area. He further said that the situation now has completely changed and that Iran will not confine itself to merely inflicting blows on enemy military and economic installations. The Karbala-4 operations, he said, showed that we are not content with mere retaliatory strikes on enemy military and economic centers and that Iran will now widen and broaden the scope of its military operations. Rafsanjani furthermore dismissed Iraqi and its dependent news media claims that the Karbala-4 operation was the long-promised offensive, stalled in its tracks, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran was counting down for the decisive final blow. He said that any major reconstruction in the region is impossible without a permanent peace between the two countries of Iran and Iraq and that only the enemies derive satisfaction from the prolongation of the war. He emphasized that the only way to end the war was ouster of Saddam and his Ba'th clique and the realization of the rights of the nations of Iran and Iraq. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also hinted that after defeating the Iraqi regime then preparations would be made for the war with the Zionist regime. He called for a coordinated anti-Zionist campaign. The Majlis speaker called on all Iraqi people and strugglers to enter the wide arena of armed struggle against the Baghdad regime. He further said that "under the present circumstances, there is no way but to cross a blood river for the liberation of the Iraqi people and land." Speaker Rafsanjani in his concluding remarks lauded Syria for her resistance against the Zionist expansionism.

Resolution Issued

LD281021 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The conference on Iraqi people's cooperation ended work Saturday evening with the issuance of a 17 point resolution calling for formation of a military committee to coordinate activities of Iraqi militants. The

resolution also stressed on the need for continued combat of the Muslim forces of Iran until final victory and overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

In the closing session of the conference which opened here Wednesday with participation of more than 400 foreign guests and a large number of Iranian personalities, reports of the five commissions of the conference were presented, points of which are included in the final resolution.

Various personalities including the Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and several other speakers addressed the conference. Different speakers stressed the need for unity of action in the campaign against the Baghdad regime and to refrain from any act which might instigate ethnic and group tendencies. The speakers also unanimously said that territorial integrity of Iraq must be respected and the oppressed people of that country be allowed to determine their own future.

One of the speakers of the session, Rasul Mamand, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, disclosed facts on the barbaric nature of the ruling regime in Iraq, saying that the ongoing Iraqi-imposed war has been forced upon Iran by Iraq on the orders of the world oppressors and the reactionaries of the region. The Iraqi Kurds, he told the conference, although fighting against the Ba'thist regime in a certain locality, have devoted themselves to the freedom of the Iraqi people. To this end, he pointed out, all Iraqi groups should be unified. Another Kurdish militant, Kamal Kirkuki, urged independent and freedom loving governments of the world to isolate the Baghdad regime.

In the final session of the four-day conference, a letter of Iraqi refugees in Iran was read in which Iraqi militant groups were urged to fight against the Iraqi regime in a united rank.

The resolution praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative in holding the conference and described it as a "great and revolutionary step". It referred to victory of the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni as a victory of the world dispossesed and said that any hostile move against the Islamic Revolution of Iran was in fact a move against the global movement against oppression.

Condemning inhuman and fascistic moves of the Iraqi rulers and its violation of human rights in its harassment and torture of Iraqi dissidents, confiscation of their properties, and their deportation, it called on international bodies to pay heed to the calls of the oppressed people of Iraq.

According to the resolution the imposed war is a war between two cultures and civilisations, one ruled by imperialism and its agents and the other run in accordance with human values. It stressed the need for continuation of the war until overthrow of the ruling regime of Baghdad and stated that survival of the Iraqi regime means perpetuation of racist values and imperialist plans.

In the view of the resolution, if the war stops, with the Ba'thist Iraqi regime remaining in power, then it would take advantage of the opportunity to massacre the Iraqi nation. Therefore, it added, the conditions set forward by Iran for ending the war are just, especially the one calling for ouster of Saddam Husayn because of his regime being the root of all vice. The resolution pointed out that all Iraqi militant groups are fully ready to actively participate towards materialising this objective.

The conference deplored imperialist hatched plots to fan the flames of the war and its efforts to ensure survival of the Iraqi regime and help it continue its aggressions by providing it with modern arms. The Iraqi nation, it pointed out, will not honor the obligations of the present Iraqi regime towards oppressor and reactionary governments. The resolution appealed to peace loving nations to exert pressure on plotters and prevent them from carrying out their evil plans.

In another point of the resolution Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian areas, commercial planes, and ships and also deployment of chemical weapons were strongly condemned. It described these beastly acts as proof of the inhuman nature of the regime which necessitates its overthrow.

The resolution called for escalation of military operations against the Iraqi ruler and stressed importance of formation [of] a standing military committee made up of all warrior forces with the involvement of representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The conference recommended that all opposition groups escalate their attacks on economic and oil installations of Iraq and called on the workers of these centers to actively participate in bringing down the regime of Saddam Husayn.

Calling on Iraqi military personnel to take part in freeing the Iraqi nation, the conference urged all Iraqi military men who fled the country to unite. It also called on tribal people of Iraq to make serious efforts in the anti-Saddam campaign and provide means for this struggle. Islam, stressed the resolution, is the true identity of the Iraqi people and the future government of this country should be in line with the aspirations of the Iraqi nation.

According to the resolution the future Iraqi Government must safeguard the national unity [and] ensure social justice and equity regardless of race, religion, and language. In the light of the sufferings of the Iraqi Kurds, it added, the future government must materialise all legitimate rights of the Kurds within the framework of national unity and establish social justice and ensure rights of religious and ethnic minorities. In another part of the resolution protection of territorial integrity of Iraq and its independence was stressed.

The conference has called for formation of a committee of Iraqi experts and social groups to draft the proposed constitutional law for Iraq within the framework of the approvals of the conference, whose task is carried out by the "special commission for evaluation of future government of Iraq".

According to the resolution the issue of Palestine is the foremost issue of Muslims. It noted that all Muslim nations should take steps towards annihilation of the Zionist regime through various means especially armed jihad. All forces are called upon to work towards this end, it added. Furthermore the conference called for formation of a standing central committee to follow up the outcome of the conference. The central committee will have three

branch committees: military, legal and political, it added. The conference stressed that it will continue its struggle until materilisation of objectives of the martyrs of the Islamic struggle of Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hadi Hakim, an Iraqi militant, told IRNA in an interview that in recent years the Iraqi regime had tried to alienate Iraqi youth from Islamic values and prevent their tilt towards Islamic Revolution. He said the regime has utterly failed to accomplish this. He also told IRNA that armed actions and martyrdom seeking moves had been carried out by the Iraqi youth in years past.

Ammunition 'Accidentally' Explodes at Garrison

LD271504 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — The boom of an explosion heard in some parts of the capital at 14:40 hours local time (11:10 hours GMT) Saturday was caused by a consignment of ammunition which accidentally detonated at a military garrison here, according to informed sources. The sources told IRNA that the ammunition exploded while it was being transported at the garrison compounds.

A number of people wounded in the explosion were transferred to a nearby hospital, the sources said.

Opposition Cited on Over 500 Killed

LD281516 Kuwait KUNA in English 1254 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 28 (KUNA) — Over five hundred Iranian Revolutionary Guards, including many ranking commanders and officers, have been killed as a massive blast ripped through a weapons depot in Tehran yesterday, according to an Iranian opposition group here Sunday.

In a statement to the press a spokesman for the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in London said the explosion, the cause of which is still unknown, occurred in the Revolution Guards "Beheshti" center for armaments and supplies. He said much of the arms shipments from Tehran's airport and various ports were stored in this base, "directly supervised and commanded" by the minister of [the] Revolutionary Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Montazeri Cables Bakhtaran Official on Bombing

LD241455 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24, IRNA — Future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, said Tuesday that Iraq's renewed bombing of Bakhtaran, Eslamabad-e-Gharb, and other Iranian cities was done solely to realize the imperialistic objectives of the world oppressors. The arrogant world powers and their proxies in the region think that by perpetrating such atrocities they can break the firm determination of the Iranian nation who are struggling under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, to eradicate injustice, Ayatollah Montazeri said.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a cable to Imam Khomeyni's representative and Bakhtaran's Friday leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Zarandi, who had sent a telegram apprising him of the bombings in this western border province.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Bakhtaran Residential Areas Hit Again

LD241617 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 24, IRNA — Six civilians were martyred and 57 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in this western Iranian city again Wednesday afternoon. Some houses were either destroyed or damaged in this inhuman enemy raid.

The city of Bakhtaran has been subjected to repeated enemy air raids over the past few days in which scores of civilians have been martyred and wounded.

Retaliatory Shelling Begun

LD241626 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 24, IRNA — Iraqi military, economic sites as well as troop concentration centers along the 250 kilometer borders in the cities of Khormal, Seyyed Sadiq, Khanaqin, Badrah, and Zurbatiyah were subjected to heavy Iranian artillery fire Tuesday and Wednesday.

During the shelling carried out in retaliation for Iraqi bombardment of Iranian residential areas in Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-e Gharb, over 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and movements of the enemy were halted in the said regions.

Iraqi Military, Economic Sites Hit

LD251044 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Air Force planes of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an operation at 08:10 hours local time (04:40 GMT) Thursday severely bombed military and economic establishments of the Iraqi city of Al 'Amadiyah, northern Iraq, said a Joint Staff Headquarters statement Thursday. All the Iranian pilots returned safe to their bases safely [as received] after successfully carrying out their mission, it added.

Iraqi Communications Center Shelled

LD261632 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — An Iraqi tele-communication center in Abu al-Khasib region in northern Al-Faw peninsula was destroyed by heavy artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Thursday. Enemy communication links in this region were disrupted as a result of the destruction of this center.

'Karbala IV' Offensive Launched

LD250921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0906 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the mighty combatants of Islam, replying to the recent mischief by the Ba'thist, Zionist enemy in attacking the residential and industrial areas of our country, commenced operation Karbala IV, codenamed Mohammad Rasul Allah. As soon as we receive more reports, we will inform you, the martyr-nurturing nation.

'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on Iraqis

LD250929 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0910 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: On the basis of a report received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the Karbala IV operations began at 2230 [1900 GMT] last night along one of the southern operational axes. During these operations, the combatants of Islam, by crossing harassing obstacles and other barricades created by the Iraqi Zionist regime, succeeded in inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

During these operations, the warriors of Islam, by capturing Umm al-Rasas Island, located in the middle of Shatt al-'Arab, destroyed 80 percent of the Iraqi 604th Infantry Brigade and 50 percent of the 22d brigade, both of the Iraqi 15th Army. During these operations, large numbers of enemy troops were either killed or wounded and some were captured by the forces of Islam.

'Sensitive Enemy Centers' Captured

LD250936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0923 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, during last night's operation by the combatants of Islam, which was staged to destroy the forces of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, the brave forces of Islam captured a number of sensitive enemy centers that had been used to shell the resisting towns of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

They destroyed the 604th Infantry Brigade of the 15th Iraqi division; completely wiped out a tank battalion and 100 light and heavy vehicles; and captured a large number of enemy troops.

Communique Issued on Offensive

LD251112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued a communique today as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continue fighting until there is no sedition. [Koranic verse]

O you the God-seeking nation, the selfless nation! The combatants of Islam, to retaliate for recent atrocities by the Iraqi regime and with the objective of destroying the Zionist enemy forces, launched the Karbala-IV operations at 2230 [1900 GMT] last night and, after crossing obstacles and fortifications of the Zionist enemy forces, succeeded in infiltrating the Umm al-Rasas, Umm al-Babi, Qit'ah, and Suhayl islands in Shatt al 'Arab, inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

During these destructive operations, the forces of Islam, after crossing the harassing obstacles and fortifications of the Iraqi Zionist regime's forces, succeeded in destroying 80 percent of the Iraqi 604th Infantry Brigade from the 15th division, 50 percent of the 22d Infantry Brigade, 50 percent of the 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division, 60 percent of the 111th Brigade of the 15th Division, and 50 percent of the 802d and the 49th Infantry Brigades. Also during these operations, a tank company of Iraq was completely destroyed and 100 of their light and heavy vehicles were set ablaze. During these operations, a large number of the Zionist enemy troops were either killed or wounded and a number of them were taken prisoner by our forces.

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters

Iraqi Naval Base, Oil Complex Hit

LD251133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Report by Central News Unit correspondent from the "Karbala IV operational zone" — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The brave and heroic fighters of Islam last night started the glorious Karbala IV operations, with the holy code name of Ya Mohammad [as heard], God's benediction and salutation be upon him and his scion. [passage omitted]

It should be added that last night your children, martyr-nurturing nation, while they had sprayed themselves with perfume and with their fragrant smell had given a spiritual fragrance to the battlefronts with their scent, and while relying on the support of their heroic fathers and mothers, rushed the enemy lines and crushed them as they had done in the past.

Heroic Iranian nation, spontaneously with Karbala IV operations your children attacked with two surface-to-surface missiles the important Umm al-Qasr naval base, the concentration center of Iraqi naval forces, and the Al-Bakr oil terminal. Also, the coastal

artillery units of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, executing heavy and crushing artillery fire, attacked the remainder of Al-'Amyah oil terminal, which had been set on fire during the Karbala III operations. This attack destroyed another part of this oil terminal. A number of Iraqi frigates were also hit and one was sunk, going to the bottom of the Persian Gulf.

The intensity of fire by the fighters of Islam was such that the fire resulting from the destruction of Umm al-Qasr naval base and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amyah oil terminals could be clearly seen from Khawr-'Abdallah coasts.

Offensive 'Militarily Important'
LD251158 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Iraqi forces have so far sustained heavy casualties and losses in the Karbala-4 operations launched by Iranian Muslim combatants in the southern fronts Wednesday night [24 December].

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) in response to a question as to whether the Karbala-4 operations was Iran's major offensive, said Thursday that Karbala-4 is aimed at annihilating enemy troops and is militarily important mostly because of novel tactics used in the offensive.

The spokesman said that the Iraqi regime in an effort to boost the morale of its troops had claimed that the operations were launched in an area extending from "Basra to Al-Faw peninsula" and that Iranian forces had failed in achieving their objectives. The spokesman however dismissed these Iraqi claims and said predetermined goals were being reached in the Karbala-4 operations.

Muslim forces of Iran infiltrated Umm al-Rasas Island inflicting substantial casualties and damage on enemy troops stationed on the island, the spokesman said. The success of Iranian Muslim combatants in crossing the Arvand River and breaking through the fortified enemy positions around Umm al-Rasas Island was an astonishing move from the military point of view because Iraqi forces never thought Iranian combatants could cross the river so swiftly and attack them.

2 Iraqi Warplanes Downed in South
LD251548 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 25, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by the anti-aircraft fire of Iran's Muslim combatants over the Karbala-4 theatre of the southern fronts Thursday afternoon. A latest report reaching here said that the two planes, attempting to bombard positions of the Iranian forces in the said theatre, were downed before carrying out any mission. No report was immediately available on the fate of pilots of the enemy planes.

Third Iraqi Warplane Downed
LD261815 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Karbala-4 operational theater, Dec 26, IRNA — An intruding Iraqi warplane was shot down here by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Friday afternoon bringing the number of enemy planes downed since the beginning of the operation Wednesday night to three. There is yet no immediate report on the fate of the plane's pilot.

Karbala-4 offensive was launched by Muslim forces of Iran in the southern fronts Wednesday night.

Iraqi Casualities Exceed 1,500
LD251642 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Dec 25, IRNA — Enemy casualties in Karbala 4 operation launched by Iran's Muslim combatants in the southern fronts Wednesday night, have exceeded 1,500, according to a communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC Hq. Thursday evening. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 25 December adds that 4,500 Iraqi soldiers have been wounded in the Karbala IV fighting]

The communique added that many Iraqi troops had also been taken captive during the lightning offensive, of whom some 100 have so far been transferred behind the fronts. [passage omitted]

Fatalities Raised to 3,000
LD261055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The number of enemy troops killed during the demolition operations of Karbala-IV has reached 3,000. According to the *Islamic Republic News Agency*, IRNA, in the process of these operations the combatants of Islam inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. According to estimates by military experts in the operational sector, thus far 3,000 enemy trooops have been killed and 6,500 others have been wounded. According to the report, during the demolition operations by the combatants of Islam, hundreds of light and heavy weapons, armored vehicles, and tanks belonging to the Zionist enemy were set ablaze and destroyed.

Air Cover Provided During Offensive
LD251725 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Karbala-4 operational region, Dec 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters set ablaze Iraqi positions and fortifications during a series of sorties providing air-cover for the Muslim combatants in the Karbala-4 operations, Thursday. The Iranian fighter bombers prevented the Iraqi warplanes from bombing Iranian positions by constantly patrolling the air space of the operational region. The Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases safely after carrying out their missions. [passage omitted]

Objectives of 'Limited Offensive'

LD261230 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has resorted to filthy propaganda tactics in a vain bid to boost the sagging morale of its badly beaten troops, said a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH), here Friday.

The spokesman told IRNA that the heavy casualties and losses inflicted on the Ba'thist troops in the limited Iranian Karbala-4 operations, in the southern fronts Wednesday night, has made the Iraqi regime desperately profer every conceivable lie to inspire its demoralized forces. The Iraqi regime is in fact trying to make a mountain out of a molehill, the spokesman added.

The objectives of the Karbala-4 offensive were to annihilate enemy troops, said the spokesman, adding that Iran had announced that the Karbala-4 operation was a limited offensive aimed at demolishing Iraqi troop sites and artillery emplacements on the opposite bank of the Arvand River in Wednesday night's offensive.

During the Karbala-4 operation, the spokesman said, Iranian forces broke through the numerous enemy barricades and surprised Iraqi troops in their fortified positions, inflicting substantial losses and casualties on them. After successfully achieving their objectives the Islamic forces returned safely to their bases, he added.

He termed the Iraqi claims that Iranian forces had initially occupied the western bank of Arvand River and captured certain other places, as 'pure fabrication.' The Muslim forces had temporarily [word indistinct] soldiers, he added.

The Muslim forces of Iran by having launched the Karbala-4 operations proved again that they are capable of overcoming any obstacle and deal telling blows on the enemy, said the spokesman.

He concluded that the agileness of the Muslim combatants has deprived Iraqi forces of the least respite and they are nervously awaiting yet another decisive blow at any moment.

Iraqis Respond With Chemical Weapons

LD261509 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 26, IRNA — Iraqi forces fired chemical shells at Iranian positions in parts of the Karbala-4 operational theater on the eastern bank of the Arvand River Friday morning wounding some Iranian combatants.

The renewed Iraqi use of chemical weapons was the direct result of the bitter defeats its forces sustained in the Karbala-4 offensive launched by Iranian forces in the southern fronts Wednesday night. Iranian anti-chemical weapons units took necessary measures to neutralize the impact of the toxic gases in the region shortly after the enemy fired the chemical shells. The wounded were transferred to hospitals for treatment.

In the course of the six-year-old imposed war, Iraq has repeatedly resorted to chemical weapons in a blatant violation of international laws. As a result thousands of Iranian forces have been wounded and scores of them martyred. Despite world-wide condemnation the Baghdad regime continues to resort to these internationally-banned toxic gases particularly when its suffers bitter defeats in the war fronts.

Captured Iraqi Troops on Offensive

LD270922 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Karbala-IV operational region, Dec 27, IRNA — A number of Iraqi POW's captured in the course of the latest Iranian offensive, in interviews with IRNA here Friday said that the Iraqi Army personnel are demoralised.

First Lieutenant Ahmad Ahmed, commander of Company One of Battalion Three of Brigade 104 of the 15th Army, told IRNA that despite the readiness of troops under his command, his battalion was smashed by Muslim forces of Iran in Umm al-Rasas, in an attack which lasted less than ten minutes. All its personnel were either killed or captured, he added.

Lieutenant Ahmed added that a week before the attack senior Iraqi commanders had put all units under their command on alert. However, the lightning attack of the Iranian forces caught them unaware and prevented them from taking any action.

According to the captured lieutenant the Iranian offensive, launched in the southern war fronts Wednesday night, was a sophisticated military move which took the Iraqis by surprise.

On formation of the 'Mohammad Rasul Allah' (SAW) forces, he said Iraqi military personnel had realised since a year ago that they were unable to stand up to the Iranian forces. Mobilisation of Iranian popular forces, he pointed out, has severely demoralised Iraqi Army personnel and instilled fright in them.

More on the latest Iranian offensive, he said that it has inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi forces in Umm al-Rasas region. Lieutenant Ahmed urged all Iraqi military personnel to surrender to Iranian forces at the first available opportunity.

Second Lieutenant, Swahendi Ahmad Husayn, of Brigade 104 of Army 15 said that massive public Iranian mobilisation has totally demoralised Iraqi military personnel including high ranking Ba'th commanders. He added, that Iraqi soldiers had been anticipating the Iranian offensive for six months, and that having been on alert for such a long period of time had exhausted them.

Another captive, Lieutenant Mohammad 'Abd Kasar talked about rifts among Iraqi commanders and added that ever since Iran's Al-Faw operations, difference of opinion has prevailed among senior Iraqi military officials who blame each another for defeats suffered by Iraqi forces.

Karbala IV Commander on Operations

LD271417 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — A commander of the Karbala-4 offensive launched in southern fronts Wednesday night in an

interview with the Central News Bureau Friday said that in the operation six Iraqi brigades in Umm al-Rasas, Umm al-Babi, Suhayl, Qit'ah and other areas of the operational region were destroyed. In addition, he added, one tank company was totally smashed and set ablaze. In the offensive some 100 military vehicles were set on fire and more than 9,500 enemy troops were either killed or wounded, the commander added.

On Iraqi propaganda, he said that the Iraqi regime in order to boost morale of its battered forces, had profered every conceivable lie to cover up its defeats. The commander added that the Muslim combatants of Iran are fully capable of carrying out extensive operations and they will be launched when conditions are appropriate. In the meantime, he added, limited surgical strikes against the enemy will continue.

According to the commander the tactics employed by the Muslim forces of Iran are more sophisticated than those used in the past, and that the espionage network of the U.S. and supporters of Iraq are unable to gather intelligence necessary for forestalling such operations.

Offensive Termed 'New Dimension'

LD271436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1158 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Unattributed political commentary entitled "Reviewing the Traces and Results of the Karbala IV Operations"]

[Text] The Karbala IV operations carried out last Wednesday night to destroy the enemy forces' men and materiel constitute a new dimension to the 76-month-old sacred defense by the Iranian people against the acts of aggression by the Iraqi Zionist regime and its supporters. The manpower losses suffered by the Iraqi Army in the course of these operations constitute the most devastating blow. It is impossible for the Ba'thist commanders to compensate for this blow in view of the political and social circumstances of the Iraqi people, particularly the spirit of despondency and fear ruling over the Iraqi troops.

The killing of more than 3,000 enemy officers, non-commissioned officers, and troops on alert and the knocking of some 6,500 others out of action once again demonstrates the increasing might of the Islamic combatants in inflicting blows on the enemy. This is in addition to the losses of vast quantities of equipment.

The Islamic combatants carried out diversionary operations at the outset of the Val-Fajr 8 operations against the island of Umm al-Rasas. This misled the enemy as to the final objectives of these operations. Moreover, the vast propaganda campaign undertaken by Iraq to portray itself as victorious, prompted the Iraqi Ba'thist Army to build special fortifications and to take measures to safeguard the island. However, the glorious Val-Fajr 8 operations and their remarkable results compounded Iraq's defeat.

The Islamic combatants renewed their efforts to infiltrate this island. The psychological effects of this infiltration on the Iraqi Army, despite all the early warning systems and the numerous sophisticated obstacles employed after Iraq's great defeat at Al-Faw, confirmed the weakness of the equvpment and fortifications against the faith and power of the Islamic combatants. The shining manifestations of this faith and power are engendering fresh hope for the oppressed and deprived Iraqi people, especially Iraqi fighters and dissidents.

The regime ruling over Iraq, which has been rendered severely fatigued and helpless thanks to the great pressure and blows applied by the Islamic combatants on all fronts, has resulted in the Iraqi regime resorting to stratagems, tricks, and blind actions to escape from this state of nervousness and vulnerability. These actions include raiding populated and non-military areas as well as attempts at portraying victory as blatant defeat. The statements made by POW's captured during the Karbala IV operations, whose number has so far risen to about 100, well demonstrate the Iraqi troops' lack of confidence in their propaganda as well as the desperate attempts of the Iraqi regime.

The powerful surprise crossing of the Arvand River, which is impossible except through the selfless deeds and use of special innovative tactics employed by Islam's combatants, has plunged the worn out Iraqi troops into a nightmare of terror and fear. The fear and terror that has engulfed the Iraqi commanders thanks to the intrepid deeds of the Islamic combatants, has drawn in their minds a frightful overall picture of the power of Islam's fighters.

On the opposite side, what goes on in Iran and the visible acceleration among all the people to go to the warfronts has prompted world political and military analysts and experts to believe that the initiative in the war is held by Iran's Islamic forces. Their admission to this crystal clear fact frustrates the attempts by subservient media that try to place limitations on the recent victories of the Islamic combatants. The media have done their utmost to portray the fruitless efforts of the Black House to draw closer to the Islamic Revolution as an arms deal!

During the Karbala IV operations, Islam's combatants also demonstrated that what molds destiny on the fronts is faith in God and steadfasntess along His path. If any other factor could have played a role, Iraq would have achieved victory in the obliteration of the Islamic Revolution on the very first days of its aggression. Also, the vast rearming of the Iraqi regime by both East and West would have been able to now to save that regime from the deadly peril that is already gripping its throat!

Iraqi Supply Columns Halted

LD281731 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov, Dec 28, IRNA — Movement of Iraqi armoured and supply columns were halted and substantial damage inflicted on them by Iranian artillery fire, Saturday. The Iraqi units were advancing on the Karbala-4 operational theater when they were hit in Al-Faw-Al Bahar [name as received] and Faw-Abu al-Khasib-Basra roads.

Meanwhile, some Iraqi forces were killed and three artillery pieces and tanks of theirs destroyed when Muslim combatants shelled their armoured and artillery units in Val Fajr-8 operational region, southern fronts, on the same day.

Communique No 2,695

LD241554 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24, IRNA — Iranian warplanes in two separate sorties heavily bombed Iraq's economic-military centers in the northern Iraqi city of Diyanah as [words indistinct] enemy troops around the eastern city of Jassan at 04:37 and 12:10 hours GMT Wednesday, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2695 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the fighters after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy returned safely to bases.

Iranian long range artillery fire continued inflicting effective blows on Iraqi military, economic, and supply centers along the whole length of Iraq's eastern borders with Iran Tuesday, the communique said.

It said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj Umran, Naft-e Shah, Sumar, Zeid [spelling as received] and Kushk operational theaters.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered Iraqi key positions throughout the fronts Tuesday inflicting heavy blows on enemy troops. The patrols after successfully carrying out their missions returned safely to bases, the communique said.

According to the communique, Iraqi soldiers suffered considerable casualties and losses when Iranian forces shelled enemy supply routes and fortifications in the western and northwestern fronts Tuesday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces suppressed Iraqi military operations in operational theaters ranging from Qasr-e-Shirin and Ilam in the western fronts to Khuzestan border fronts in the south-west, Tuesday inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy troops, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi forces sustained some casualties and their tank fire was silenced in Pich-e Angizeh, Bejliyeh, Faqqeh, and Kushk operational regions, southern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

In Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts, Iraqi engineering operations were halted and a number of enemy engineering machinery destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

Communique No 2,696

LD251633 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed economic and military installations in the Iraqi cities of Al 'Amadiyah and Tuz Khurmatu (northern Iraq) at 08:10 and 08:30 hours local time (04:40 and 05:00 GMT) Thursday, inflicting heavy damage, according to a military communique issued here Thursday. The Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases safely, it added.

Communique Number 2,696 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Navy gun-boats intercepted 15 tankers and merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but allowed them to proceed, since no Iraqi-bound cargo was found.

In the southern fronts, Muslim combatants of Iran consolidated their positions in continuation of the Wednesday night's Karbala-4 operations. An Iraqi patrol group, attempting to penetrate the Iranian forces' positions in the Channeh region of the southern theatre of Tuesday night, was immediately forced to flee with heavy losses.

Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted considerable damage on Iraqi tanks and silenced their fire in Kushk, Sharhani, Zobeydeh, and Faqqeh regions, said the communique.

In the western fronts, the communique said, some Iraqi forces were killed when the Iranian Muslim forces, maintaining the upper hand, shelled enemy positions in these fronts. Exchange of fire raged on in these fronts being somewhat more intense in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin.

Iraqi motorized and armoured units were subjected to Iranian heavy artillery fire in the Mehran theatre Wednesday.

In Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Marivan, the Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties and damage on enemy positions and fortifications.

Some Iranian Gendarmerie forces, in the Bakhtaran-Eslamabad axis, were wounded when Iraqi warplanes again resorted to the cowardly use of chemical bombs, Wednesday.

Communique No 2,697

LD261604 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected 16 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Friday.

Communique Number 2,697 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iraqi forces suffered substantial human and material losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces Thursday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and six enemy bunkers and observation posts, several vehicles, and a munitions dump destroyed in parts of the western and southern fronts Thursday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi infantrymen suffered heavy casualties and some enemy vehicles and one watch tower were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

The Joint Staff communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft-e Shah operational

theaters as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

In the northwestern fronts Iranian Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi infantry units in Kalaleh and Hajj-'Umran Thursday inflicting several casualties and losses on enemy troops. Movement of enemy supply columns were also checked in Piranshah, Sardasht, and Marivan.

According to the communique, Iraqi troops were prevented from fortifying their positions in Chazzabeh, Bejliyeh, Pich-e Angizeh and Sharhani operational regions, southern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

Iraqi long range artillery fire has hit the southern Iranian city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, since Saturday inflicting some losses on the city, the communique said.

Communique No 2,698

LD271614 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane attempting to raid Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 13:24 hours GMT Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Communique Number 2,698 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that other Iraqi warplanes which tried to attack the southern Iranian city of Ahvaz six times Friday were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire without succeeding in bombing the city.

Iraqi troops fired chemical shells at Iranian positions in the eastern Basra operational theater at 05:24 hours GMT Friday, the communique said.

It said that parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and two enemy command jeeps together with some observation posts destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire Friday. A number of enemy scouts were also killed.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces in addition to suppressing Iraqi patrol operations reconnoitered and heavily shelled enemy positions Friday.

Iranian forces shelled Iraqi armoured units in Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts on Friday setting fire to some enemy tanks and disrupting enemy operations, it said.

Elsewhere, the communique said, a number of Iraqi vehicles were destroyed when Iranian forces shelled an enemy motorized column which included 150 vehicles in Yabis operational theater, southern fronts, Friday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Sayyid Sadiq. In Sar Dasht, Kalaleh, and Hajj 'Umran operational regions, Iraqi infantrymen suffered some casualties and losses and were prevented from fortifying their positions, by Iranian artillery fire.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered key Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday dealing heavy blows on enemy troops.

Movements of Iraqi motorized columns were checked in the western operational regions of Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin Friday.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1986

Iran

Frozen Assets — Citing British press reports on the resumption of U.S.-Iranian talks in The Hague, IRNA referred to "optimistic" signs that the United States will move toward releasing the Iranian assets it froze in 1979. The current session in The Hague is focusing on 500 million dls of Iranian funds frozen in U.S. bank accounts, Hilversum radio noted.

Stand on ICO Conference — President 'Ali Khamene'i told the visiting ICO secretary general that the ICO conference should not be held in a country bordering a war zone, stressing that it should take place in a "neutral" country where Muslim leaders can meet in peace and security, Tehran radio reported. Khamene'i also regretted the ICO's failure to take a "decisive" stance toward the Iran-Iraq war, but he expressed Iran's readiness to make the ICO more active in implementing Islamic goals. Khamene'i's remarks were in response to the ICO official's call for Iran to send a top-level delegation to the forthcoming ICO conference in Kuwait.

Lebanon

Nabih Birri announced that the Amal Movement had asked its fighters throughout Lebanon to cease fire 29 December as a "good-will" gesture to mark the new year and in light of the stand taken by Syria and Iran. Speaking at a Damascus news conference reported by Beirut radio, the Amal leader said his forces will allow food and medicine into Al-Rashidiyah camp as of 1 January, and he stressed that Amal is working to implement the Iranian cease-fire plan, despite PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's refusal to do likewise. He alleged that 'Arafat wants to keep the situation tense until the ICO summit in January.

Despite the cease-fire announcement, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio accused Amal of continuing to shell Palestinian camps in Beirut, noting reports that 2 people were killed and 20 injured in Burj al-Barajinah. Palestinian sources cited by the UAE daily *Al-Ittihad disclosed that Jordan has allowed Fatah units to* leave its territory to reinforce PLO forces in Lebanon, according to WAM.

Saudi Arabia

In remarks to the Council of Ministers carried by SPA, King Fahd stressed Saudi solidarity with OPEC objectives and hoped for increased oil revenues. The king asserted that the slight reduction in the Saudi budget for the next fiscal year will not affect the "general framework" of national financial planning.

Defense Minister Prince Sultan and the visiting PDRY energy minister reviewed ways to develop fraternal relations, Aden radio reported, adding that Prince Sultan accepted a letter for King Fahd from PDRY leader Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

Pakistan

Two people were killed by a car bomb in Peshawar 30 December, AFP reported, noting that the explosion was the latest in a wave of bombings allegedly planned by DRA agents.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 250 *30 December 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Addresses Intellectuals, Urges Unity ..... F 1
Soviet Envoy Meets With Zain Noorani 29 Dec ..... F 1
Convening of Political Conference Denied ..... F 1
'Stricter' Visa Requirements Enforced 1 Jan *[DPA]* ..... F 1
Maritime Security Agency Created 29 Dec ..... F 1
Indian Government Asked To Stop Building Dam ..... F 2
2 Killed by Bomb; Wave of Blasts Reported *[AFP]* ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Amparai Proposal Turned Down in Note to India ..... G 1
'Direct' Government, LTTE Discussions Held *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
AFP Reports on Talks ..... G 1
LTTE Reportedly Violated Christmas Cease-Fire ..... G 2
Tamil Radio on Police Raid in Tamil Nadu *[Voice of Tamil Eelam]* ..... G 2
Tamil Radio Refutes Press Report on Sponsorship *[Voice of Tamil Eelam]* ..... G 2

IRAN

Talks Held With U.S. Bankers on Frozen Assets *[Netherlands Hilversum]* ..... I 1
Signs Termed 'Optimistic' ..... I 1
Tudeh Official Views Impact of 'Irangate' *[London MORNING STAR 29 Dec]* ..... I 1
Khamene'i Message Urges Halt to Iraqi Attacks ..... I 2
ICO Secretary General Arrives; Meets Velayati ..... I 3
Kuwait as ICO Meeting Venue Viewed ..... I 3
Khamene'i Urges Strong Islamic Stance ..... I 3
Further on Iraqi Solidarity Conference ..... I 4
Montazeri Addresses Attendees ..... I 4
Khomeyni Receives Iraqi Delegates ..... I 4
Time Said 'Right' for Conference ..... I 4
Anniversy of Afghanistan Occupation Marked ..... I 5
News Conference Held in Qom ..... I 5
Afghan Refugees Hold Demonstrations ..... I 6
Larijani, Afghan Front Leaders Meet ..... I 6
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement ..... I 6
Envoy to Syria Briefs Majlis Speaker on Lebanon ..... I 7
Received by Khamene'i ..... I 7
Sri Lankan Economic, Oil Delegation Arrives ..... I 7
Trade Talks Open ..... I 7
Sri Lankan Minister, Zanjani Meet ..... I 7
Pakistani Oil, Economic Delegation Arrives ..... I 7
Discussions Begin ..... I 8
Oil Minister Says OPEC Outcome 'Successful' ..... I 8
Tehran on Implications of 'Karbala-IV' ..... I 8
Communique No 2,699 Reports Iraqi Losses ..... I 9

Ziaul Haq Addresses Intellectuals, Urges Unity

BK260529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The convention of intellectuals and prominent persons in connection with the birth anniversary of Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah concluded in Islamabad last night after identifying major problems facing the country and discussing possible steps for their effective solution.

Winding up the concluding session of the convention, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq underscored the need for forging complete national unity and said this objective can be achieved only by establishing a true Islamic system which is the basis of this country. He cautioned the people against the schemes of the enemies of the country, who want to weaken it internally so that they can fulfill their nefarious designs. However, the president said, nobody can harm a united naitonal which has self-confidence and which nurtures the ambition to survive and to march forward. He dismissed the apprehensions of the vested interests about the future of the country, saying that Pakistan's people and its Armed Forces are fully capable of defending the country's security, solidarity, independence, and sovereignty.

The president said the sole objective of our efforts should be to accelerate the process of Islamization in the country, as it is the only solution of all our problems. In doing so, we must keep in mind two principles, and they are: all our laws should be in line with the teachings of the Holy Koran and the Holy Prophet and the people should be provided with inexpensive justice. This will enable us to establish a true Islamic welfare society, he observed.

The president assured the participants of the convention that the recommendations made by intellectuals and scholars for solving the country's problems will be given due consideration. The recommendations falling under his jurisdiction will be addressed by the president himself, while others needing the attention of the executive head will be forwarded to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. [passage omitted]

The president described the recent Karachi incidents as highly regrettable and said the need of the hour is to identify the real causes of these incidents and then their solutions. He reiterated the constant need for forging national unity and harmony to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. We should resolve our problems with mutual consultation in the spirit of brotherhood and work toward establishment of a durable political process in the country, the president observed.

Earlier, spokesmen of those nine groups, which had been set up to identify basic problems facing the country, submitted their respective reports. Almost every group has underscored the need for forging national unity and harmony and for making the country a true Islamic welfare state. The participants of the convention observed that the greatest problem is to protect the national integrity from internal disturbances and external threats. Certain groups underscored the need for a purposeful educational system so as to provide education to the common masses in accordance with national requirements.

Some groups stressed the need for reorganization of the administrative structure in provinces. One group underlined the need for holding elections on party basis as soon as possible and for the establishment of procedure of accountability. [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Meets With Zain Noorani 29 Dec

BK291539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul-Rakhman Khalil Ogly Vezirov called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani in Islamabad today and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Convening of Political Conference Denied

BK291531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today categorically denied a report allegedly broadcast by the Voice of Germany and published in an Urdu daily which quoted President Mohammad Ziaul Haq as saying that he has decided to convene a round table conference of political leaders. The spokesman described the report as totally baseless as the president has never made any statement or expressed any opinion about this.

'Stricter' Visa Requirements Enforced 1 Jan

LD261419 Hamburg DPA in German 1226 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, 24 Dec (DPA) — From January 1 Pakistan will require every citizen of the Federal Republic to have a transmit visa. This will also apply to single stopovers. This was announced by the Pakistani authorities in Islamabad today. Pakistan has introduced these stricter visa requirements in response to similar measures by Bonn.

On 7 November the Bundesrate approved a provision of the aliens legislation in connection with a stricter interpretation of the right to asylum, in accordance with which citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria must have a visa even for single stopovers in the Federal Republic. The reason given was that it was from these countries in particular that numerous asylum-seekers had used a stopover at German airports to apply for asylum.

Maritime Security Agency Created 29 Dec

BK291638 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan Maritime Security Agency has been created to enforce national laws and international agreements in the maritime zone of the country. The agency will provide assistance in protecting Pakistan's exclusive economic zone from poaching, antismuggling operations, and maintenance of coastal facilities. The zone stretches 200 miles seaward off the coast.

Indian Government Asked To Stop Building Dam
BK241555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The Pakistani Government has asked the Indian Government to stop construction of Wular barrage on Chenab River in India. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has clarified its points of view to the Indus Valley Commission in this connection, the meeting of which was held in New Delhi recently. The spokesman said both parties agreed that they will compile questions based on the agreed strategy and both countries will try to solve this problem in light of these questions. If this problem has not been solved, it will be put before both governments to be solved on the diplomatic level. And even then, if no solution has been found, it will be put forward for arbitration.

2 Killed by Bomb; Wave of Blasts Reported
BK300938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 30 (AFP) — Two persons, including a police officer, were killed and another policeman badly wounded Tuesday when a car packed with explosives blew up at a police station in Peshawar, near Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, police said. Explosions were also reported elsewhere in the city gripped for the past few weeks by a fresh wave of bomb blasts, allegedly by Afghan agents, but details of casualties were not immediately available.

According to the police, the explosion in the Peshawar west police station compound was so powerful that it shook the whole area, rattling windows in many houses in the district. They said the bomb was placed in a suspected car impounded earlier by the local police. It went off when police officer Niqab Shah, was searching the vehicle.

Niqab Shah and his driver died on the spot while another constable received serious injuries. The blast also destroyed another car parked in the police compound, police said.

Police cordoned off the area, but so far no arrests had been made.

SRI LANKA

Amparai Proposal Turned Down in Note to India

BK251200 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in India, Bernard Tilakaratna, flew to New Delhi from Colombo on Tuesday taking with him a special message to the Indian Government that Sri Lanka would not agree to any proposal to delink Amparai District from the Eastern Province. The message includes a signed statement by five government Muslim MP's in the Eastern Province expressing opposition to such a move and setting out their common position in regard to religious matters.

Mr Tilakaratna, who was yesterday expected to hand over to Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran this message for [words indistinct] transmis ion to Indian leaders.

Three rounds of talks between India and Sri Lanka ended in a deadlock last week over the contentious issue of the Tamil demand for a merged north and east. During the final round last Friday between President J.R. Jayewardene and two Indian ministers, special emissaries of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a proposal to delink Amparai District from the Eastern Province and then set up a provincial council there emerged. This council and the one proposed for the north will be linked together by institutional arrangements. This would have boosted Amparai's Tamil population from 40 to 49 percent, Muslims from 33 to 37 percent, and brought down Sinhalese from 26 to 13 percent.

Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Chidambaram and Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh would discuss with Tamil groups in Madras about the new proposal. The Indian Government belives that it would now be able to do so taking into consideration the government's opposition to delink Amparai District.

'Direct' Government, LTTE Discussions Held

BK271300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, direct discussion between the Sri Lankan Government goodwill delegation and the leaders of the militant Tamil group — Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] — took place at Kankesanturai in Jaffna peninsula today. The 3-member government delegation led by a ruling party MP, Mr Vincent Perera, had discussions with Jaffna District commander of LTTE, Mr Kittu, for about 2 hours. Our Colombo correspondent, Piabon Majumder, reports from Jaffna that this is the first-ever direct contact between a Sri Lankan Government delegation and the militant groups. The earlier contacts were through Indian good offices, the last being at Thimpu in August last year.

Although no official statement on the talks was immediately available, our correspondent understands that the talks covered all areas of mutual concern and the ethnic crisis. The Jaffna District commander of the LTTE, Mr Kittu, told our correspondent immediately after the talks that while there can be more direct contacts like this to exchange ideas and to help build mutual understanding, any negotiation for long-term solution has to be through India's good offices. He said that the need for a negotiator arose because, as he put it, the LTTE cannot trust the Sri Lankan Government to give in to real Tamil aspirations.

AFP Reports on Talks

BK271422 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Colombo, Dec 27 (AFP) — The strongest Tamil militant group met in northern Sri Lanka Saturday with a goodwill mission from Colombo to discuss ways to end the bloody separatist conflict, reliable sources said. The goodwill mission led by government MP, Vincent Perera, met with the northern leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Krishna Kumar, and five others to seek their views on a solution to the crisis that has claimed nearly 5,000 lives since mid-1983 and seriously affected the economy.

Senior government sources stressed that it was not an official government mission and said that Saturday's meeting and discussions in the Jaffna peninsula could not be interpreted as "direct talks" between President Junius Jayewardene's administration and the LTTE.

The LTTE has emerged as the main separatist group claiming recognition as the true representative of the Tamils. The sources said that the mission's aim was to continue indirect contacts made earlier with the LTTE in the hope that the two sides could eventually "formalise the contacts," and possibly pave the way for direct talks.

The LTTE's northern Deputy Commander S. Canagaratnam, alias Captain Rahim, also told *Agence France-Presse* after the talks that Saturday's meeting did not constitute "direct talks with the government," adding that the goodwill mission could not be described as a government delegation. But both sides agreed that the mission, which also included the secretary-general of the political parties conference, which earlier this year discussed ways to end the separatist conflict, and a lawyer engaged in the current mediation talks with India, had Colombo's "blessings."

Captain Rahim described the talks as "quite friendly," and said that they had given the two sides an opportunity to "understand each other's problems." He added that the talks covered "all issues concerning both sides." He said that the LTTE had told the mission that if the government had any proposals to end the conflict they should be discussed with the LTTE leadership based in Madras, southern India. The LTTE spokesman said there were no immediate plans for the mission to return to Jaffna for a further round of talks.

The mission, which met with the LTTE delegation in the city of Kankesanturai at the northern tip of the Jaffna peninsula, flew back to Colombo later Saturday and briefed Mr Jayewardene on the nature and content of the talks, sources said. Meanwhile the government and LTTE agreed on a 24-hour truce Christmas Day, which was extended to cover Friday, and no fatal incidents

involving the two sides have been reported, sources on both sides said.

The government reported that LTTE cadres had fired at home guards at a village in the northeast but no casualties were recorded. LTTE sources said troops had come out on patrol in the Mullaittivu area in the east but withdrew when LTTE members fired at them. Some analysts said that the government's intention appeared to be to de-escalate the military situation and keep up contacts with the LTTE so that direct negotiations could be resumed later. There have been no direct talks between the government and Tamil groups since the collapse of the Thimpu talks more than a year ago when the Tamil groups walked out of talks in Bhutan.

Captain Rahim stressed Saturday that the group would talk directly with the Colombo government but only if India, which has acted as a mediator in the talks, remain involved. The Colombo government has proposed to Indian mediators the setting up of an inter-provincial committee to work out plans for the future together, and two Indian ministers will pass this on to Tamil representatives in the next few days, diplomatic sources said.

The Tamils have demanded the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces to create a Tamil homeland, while Colombo has proposed instead a division of the provinces along ethnic lines between the Tamil, Sinhalese, and Moslem populations.

LTTE Reportedly Violated Christmas Cease-Fire

BK261143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam violated the Christmas truce yesterday. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that a gang of LTTE terrorists raided the village of (Puliandi) of Gomarayankadawala in the Trincomalee District in eastern Sri Lanka and shot at the home guard. Troops rushed to the scene and the terrorists are reported to have fled. One terrorist who was carrying a grenade was captured. He has been identified as Mustafa, alias Jabbar. The terrorists had earlier agreed to observe the truce called by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali.

Tamil Radio on Police Raid in Tamil Nadu

BK261457 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1331 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] has reported in Madras that Rameswaram [a coastal town in Tamil Nadu] police stormed the EROS camp in the Thanga chimadam area of Rameswaram on Wednesday [24 December] and seized the belongings from there. It was reported that at the time of the raid that the camp was closed; there was nobody there; and that an EROS supporter was detained for questioning.

Tamil Radio Refutes Press Report on Sponsorship

BK251656 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Communist Party of Tamil Eelam expresses deep concern over a wrong report published by the English daily, *The Hindu* from Madras about the Voice of Tamil Eelam radio in its edition of day before yesterday. This paper reported that the Eelam Revolutionary Communist Party — ERCP — is the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam and its radio is the Voice of Tamil Eelam. The Madras correspondent of the Voice of Tamil Eelam has pointed out to *The Hindu* editor that there is no (?truth) in this report.

The Communist Party of Tamil Eelam is the official party of teh Tamil speaking people of Tamil Eelam. The Communist Party of Tamil Eelam, which enjoys the confidence and trust of the progressive forces in and out of Tamil Eelam and strongly professes the revolutionary, socialist ideologies, has been operating the Voice of Tamil Eelam as its authentic radio. The Voice of Tamil Eelam expresses to the world the feelings of the people of Tamil Eelam and the (?principles) of all the progressive forces.

Talks Held With U.S. Bankers on Frozen Assets

LD291150 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] In The Hague Iranian and American bankers are meeting to discuss $500 million in Iranian funds frozen in U.S. bank accounts. The sums were frozen after American diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran were taken hostage. The talks are being attended by representatives of the central banks of both countries and by officials of the U.S. Department of Finance. The meeting has been held under the auspices of the Iranian-U.S. Claims Tribunal, which was set up as a result of the 1981 Algeria accord, which ended the U.S. hostage crisis in Iran.

Signs Termed 'Optimistic'

LD291650 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 29 IRNA — Signs are more optimistic that America will move towards finally returning Iranian assets frozen by the United States since 1979. With the U.S. resuming talks with Iran in The Hague Monday, the London *Independent* focuses on dlrs 500 million of Iranian funds held by America by a European bank, which it feels can be resolved without having to resort to a special tribunal.

The paper quotes sources close to the tribunal saying that the U.S. has already agreed in principle to return the funds to Iran and that the only obstacle is a formal notice from Tehran's Central Bank unconditionally absolving the New York federal bank of any accountability for how it administers the money. The newspaper points out, however, that the dlrs 500 million is "only a fraction of the estimated dlrs 9 billion" seized by the U.S. after relations were severed between the two countries 7 years ago. It calls The Hague tribunal "unique" being that it is the only forum in which Iranian and American officials sit down together.

Like *The Independent*, the *Financial Times* links the discussions with reports that Tehran may be prepared to use its influence with groups in Lebanon holding American citizens if the United States released its assets. With the Reagan administration currently beset by the controversy over supplying arms, the *Financial Times* says it would "dearly like to secure the release" of at least five of its personnel held in Lebanon. For the paper, the readiness of the two sides to resume talks suggests a "reasonable chance of a deal."

Tudeh Official Views Impact of 'Irangate'

PM291445 London MORNING STAR in English 29 Dec 86 p 7

[Article by (J. Omid), representative in Britain of Iranian Tudeh Party: "U.S. Backing the Side Destined for the Ash Heap of History"]

[Text] The unfolding Irangate saga has centered on its damaging effect on the Reagan administration. Here, (J. Omid), a representative in Britain of the Tudeh Party, examines the effect of the scandal in Iran.

The "Irangate" affair, as it is called in the Western media, is acquiring new dimensions with each passing day. What seemed to be a small news item in *Al-Shira'* newspaper has shaken both the Reagan administration and Khomeyni's regime.

Hasan Sabra, the 38-year-old editor of the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Shira'* said on December 15 in Beirut that the story was deliberately leaked to him by the Mehidi Hashemi group — Hashemi is the son-in-law of Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeyni's chosen successor — as part of a power struggle between the various factions of the ruling regime in Tehran.

On November 10, the Ministry of Information (Security Ministry) announced that Mehidi Hashemi and some of his associates had been arrested and were being questioned.

The official reasons for their arrest were: Their activities against the Foreign Ministry, the kidnapping of Syrian ambassador in Tehran, and so on.

Several days later, a number of MP's, army officers, as well as members of the Revolutionary Guards and other officials were arrested in connection with a leaflet which was distributed in Iran, exposing the covert dealings with the U.S. and Rafsanjani's role in this affair.

The secret relation between the treacherous leaders of the Islamic Republic and the U.S., over the recent years has been exposed several times by the revolutionary forces, as far back as 1983.

Following the fascistic onslaught on the Tudeh Party of Iran, we wrote several times of the co-operation between the CIA, Israeli intelligence, Mosad, and the British intelligence services with the repressive organs of the Khomeyni regime.

During recent weeks, on the long-standing relations between Washington and the Islamic Republic, *The Washington Post* wrote: "Before the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked the Tudeh Party of Iran, the CIA submitted a list of Tudeh Party activists to Khomeyni's regime, as a consequence of which 200 Tudeh members were executed, the party leaders were imprisoned, and the Tudeh Party of Iran was banned."

On June 14, 1984, *Nameh Mardom*, the central organ of our party, commented on the deceitful and criminal role of imperialism in the region in helping both regimes to continue the Iran-Iraq war.

It wrote: "Hand in hand with and arising with the secret love affairs between the leaders of the Islamic Republic and the U.S., some time ago Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz announced its readiness for the resumption of diplomatic relations and the renewal of arms deals with the U.S.

'However, the lack of official relations between the U.S. and Iran has not stopped Iran buying billions of dollars of U.S. arms from third countries like Israel and South Korea."

Our party restated in its recent National Conference that as a result of the betrayal of the goals of the revolution, Khomeyni

and other leaders of the Islamic Republic reached a compromisie with the U.S. and reactionary forces worldwide, thus re-installing the lost positions of world imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism in Iran.

In Iran, the response of the officials to the "Irangate" revelations has been one of deceit.

Khomeyni claims that Reagan's emissaries were "put under close observation" immediately upon arrival and that they did not succeed in meeting those they wanted to contact.

This is quite clearly not true.

It is said that soon after landing, the passengers of McFarlane's plane were met by a high-level Iranian delegation led by Mr Sa'adatian, from the Foreign Ministry, Colonels Javidinia, Zare', Amin and Badid from the Ministry of Defence and the deputy of logistics section as well as Hoseyn Morteza'e, from the Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Accompanying McFarlane was a monarchist, Fardin Azimi, a close associate of Aqazadeh, the Iranian oil minister. Azim, who is an arms smuggler, acted as the interpreter.

According to the news received, a number of the regime's leaders headed by Rafsanjani were fully informed and met with McFarlane in Independence (Hilton) Hotel in Tehran, and they ensured the U.S. party of full confidentiality.

It is also known that Sa'adatian and some members of the parliament, Dr Hadi, chair of the foreign relations commission of the Islamic parliament, Lava Sanie, deputy foreign minister, as well as the personal representative of Khamene'i, met the U.S. delegation.

In the following days various issues were discussed including the U.S. hostages in Lebanon, relations with Syria, the "Afghanistan problem," the Iran-Iraq war, negotiations between Iran and the Soviet Union and oil and gas exports, as well as the receipt of military hardware and spare parts.

The reactionary leaders of the Islamic Republic have been trying to win the favour of U.S. imperialism for a long time now.

In a statement issued by the central committee of the Tudeh Party, November 24 1986, our party said: "In reality the secret negotiations of the rulers of the Islamic Republic with the White House to co-ordinate relations at present is the result of a process of changes in the internal and external relations of the Islamic Republic....

"What is being exposed and emphasised now after four years once again reiterates the fact that attack upon the Tudeh Party of Iran was the bullet of imperialism and reaction into the heart of the revolution and the beginning of the compromise and dealings of the treacherous leaders of the Islamic Republic with the White House....

At the same time, repression and terror has been intensified by the regime.

In recent security manoeuvres in Tehran and other cities, hundreds were arrested including many cadres and members of our party and the Organisation of the Iranian People's Fedayeen (Majority).

In our view, the aim of all these operations was to service the imperialists' domination in Iran, to exploit the immense oil resources of the area and to suppress all the national liberation movements in the region.

The working people of our country will continue the struggle against the reactionary Islamic Republican regime until its overthrow.

No force can resist the will of the people. The people of Iran have the final say over the destiny of our homeland.

Khomeyni and his followers will undoubtedly have the same fate as their predecessors who were backed by the White House; the ash heap of history.

[Editorial note: boxed off within the body of the above item is the following unattributed item entitled "U.S.-Iran Deal Exposed":]

The text of what was discussed in the meeting with the U.S. Delegation is published in the highly secretive internal weekly bulletin of the fourth office of the Information Security Ministry, which is used exclusively by the political, military and security leaders of the Islamic Republic.

According to the bulletin, the U.S. delegation stated: "What is of utmost importance for Washington is the agreement of the Iranian government with the U.S. demands of establishing two stations in Iran against Communist Russia.

"We would like to inform you that with these two stations we would be able to monitor all Russian activities in the Central Asian republics, especially their missile testings.

"Our advance electronic equipment can control all the messages and the electronic communications of the Communist government of Russia all along the southern parts of Iran (Persian Gulf).

"From our government's point of view this information is of vital importance for our friendship and the stabilization of a strong and anti-Communist Iran."

Khamene'i Message Urges Halt to Iraqi Attacks

LD290945 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i in a message to the Head of the Non-Aligned Movement Robert Mugabe Sunday urged him to press Iraqi regime to stop its attacks on Iranian civilian areas. In his message the president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, said that the recent escalated Iraqi attack on various Iranian cities has once again claimed lives of hundreds of innocent Iranian children and women.

Iraqi attacks on mosques, hospitals, schools and homes of cities of Eslamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran, Dezful, Andimeshk, Haft Tappeh, Ahvaz, and Imam Khomeyni Port have made it necessary to draw the attention of international bodies and the movement to their responsibilities, said the message.

The president pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the movement more than other international organisations to meet its grave responsibilities vis-a-vis the Iraqi attacks and acts of mischief, it concluded.

ICO Secretary General Arrives; Meets Velayati

LD281545 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) Sayed Sharifuddin Pirzada arrived here Sunday afternoon and was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to reporters on his arrival the ICO secretary-general said that his visit to Iran is aimed at exchanging views on various issues, including the next summit meeting of the ICO which is to be held in Kuwait in January 1987.

Asked if the ICO agenda includes any new suggestions on the Iraq-imposed war, Pirzada said that he would discuss the issue with Iranian officials.

Foreign Minister Velayati told IRNA that Pirzada is here to review Iran-ICO relations. The Iranian officials will brief the ICO secretary-general on the Islamic Repubic's stance on various issues, he assured.

Velayati expressed hope that the ICO, with a new secretariat, coupled with the efforts of the new secretary-general, Pirzada, would be a fountain-head of constructive moves by the organizaton. The foreign minister further said that one billion Muslims are looking forward to an Islamic organization in the real sense of the word to preserve their interests in the world. "If we want to safeguard the interests of the Islamic countries we require a positive review and more serious outlook in this matter", he said.

Pakistan's Sharifuddin Pirzada took over the post of secretary-general from Tunisia's Habib Chatti.

Kuwait as ICO Meeting Venue Viewed

LD281910 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The Kuwaiti Government should at least profess neutrality in the Iraqi-imposed war if it wants to be a successful venue for the forthcoming meet of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Sunday. The remark was made in response to the request of the visiting ICO Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada who asked Iran to send a top level delegation to the conference. Velayati regretted Kuwait's stance on the imposed war which he said had so far not changed. "If you think Kuwait can compensate for its past mistakes and adopt a neutral stance, we will take into consideration the level of Iran's participation at the conference, if any," Velayati told Pirzada.

Referring to the Iraqi aggression on Iran, Velayati said that Iranian Muslim combatants will powerfully pursue their justified goals in the war. The foreign minister warned that if ICO does not adopt a just stance vis-a-vis the war, time may not offer it any opportunity for correction later. "ICO is an important body and should fulfill its responsibilities," he added. ICO should step up its efforts to resolve the difficulties faced by Muslims in political and international scenes, the foreign minister noted.

Pirzada arrived here Sunday afternoon.

Khamene'i Urges Strong Islamic Stance

LD292111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organisation Sharifuddin Pirzada, who is in Tehran, during a meeting this morning with President Khamene'i and Foreign Minister Velayati outlined the aims and the method of holding the next Islamic summit. He expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran would take part in the session at the highest level. He stressed: The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the session has a great deal of importance.

Then, describing the importance of the work of the ICO, President Khamene'i said: Today, the Islamic world is facing new problems, such as Zionism; the issue of Lebanon and Afghanistan; and aggression against lands, culture, and wealth of Muslim nations by pagan powers or their puppet agents. All these problems require coordination among Islamic nations. This issue, in itself, adds to the importance of the work of the ICO.

Stressing the point that the ICO should act in accordance with Islamic principles and standards, he added: This organization should in fact be in the form of a trench for the defense of Islamic nations and principles in the world. It should base its stances and views on Islamic principles. The ICO should create a power in itself, which could take a strong and decisive stance regarding the existing disputes in the Islamic world, especially in the face of over aggression.

Referring to the point that, unfortunately, in the 6 years of aggression by the Iraqi regime against Iran, the ICO has not taken a decisive stance yet, he stressed that the organization should be active in decisively confronting issues. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran seriously declares her readiness to make the organization more active in implementing Islamic Goals.

Stressing the importance of holding the Islamic summit in a country that supports justice and righteousness, and that is impartial, he said: The next Islamic summit should be held in a neutral country. Therefore, the ICO should not repeat its historic mistake in selecting Casablanca for the session. Since the ICO is a place for reviewing the most important issues in the Muslim world, it should be in a place where the heads of Islamic states can review the problems of the Islamic countries with peace

of mind and with a sense of security, not in a country that has wars on her borders or on her doorstep.

Further on Iraqi Solidarity Conference

Montazeri Addresses Attendees

LD290925 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Qom, Dec 29, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in an address to a group of Iraqi dissidents who attended the Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation, here Sunday called for unity of all Iraqi opposition groups in their struggle against the ruling Baghdad regime.

The future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution in his address to members of the Iraqi opposition who called on him stressed that the spirit of self-sacrifice and a willingness to be martyred ensures the continuity of Islamic principles. In this crucial period he added, people should rise and protect Islam and Muslims. If Islam is in danger, he told the visitors, our responsibility is clear.

Referring to [the] anti-Islamic nature of the Iraqi regime, Ayatollah Montazeri said that the ruling Iraqi regime and a number of other regimes of the Islamic world are working against the interests of Muslims. Muslims, in fulfillment of their Islamic duty should stand against injustice, he said.

Ayatollah Montazeri further told the guests who included a number of Iraqi militant ulema and those from other countries, that the Iraqi uquma should get their message across to the Iraqi Armed Forces personnel and people both inside and outside Iraq so that they can fulfill their covenant with Islam, God, and the Prophet.

Some of the Iraqi military personnel are under the impression that the Iraqi-imposed war is a war between Persians and Arabs. It is the responsibility of the Iraqi ulema to make it clear to all that Iran has no territorial ambitions on Iraq and that its concern is for the well-being of Islam.

At present, he pointed out, resignation to fate and being patient makes no sense. "Once you unitedly rise up against the Iraqi regime, propaganda of Husayn of Jordan and Mubarak of Egypt portraying the war as one between Arabs and Iranians will be ineffective," he added.

At the end Ayatollah Montazeri urged the guests not to suffice at only the holding of conferences, and called on them to follow up the issue vigorously. He also invited all Iraqi Muslim militants and opposition groups to greater unity and pointed out that they should avoid any schism.

The four-day Conference of the Iraqi People's Cooperation was held in Tehran with the participation of more than 400 Iraqi opposition personalities. It ended Saturday with the issuing of a 17-point resolution.

Khomeyni Receives Iraqi Delegates

LD291247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Delegates attending the Iraqi people's solidarity conference were received by Imam Khomeyni this morning at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran [a mosque next to Khomeyni's residence]. The chairman of the conference, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Hashemi-Golpayegani, reported to the imam of the nation on the work of the conference and its successful outcome. He referred to the victory of the Islamic Revolution, led by the imam of the nation, as a source of hope for the world's oppressed peoples and the revival of Islam throughout the world. [passage omitted]

He said: The conference met in Tehran for 4 days. Having formed five committees, we adopted decisions in an atmosphere of complete sincerity regarding the fall of Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Zionist regime. We also surveyed the future of Iraq. The following decisions were adopted:

1. On international political activities against Saddam;
2. On the escalation of armed struggle inside Iraq;
3. On the human rights issue and Saddam's crimes;
4. On the imposed war; and
5. On determining Iraq's future policy as dictated by Iraqi people's pronouncement after the fall of Saddam.

Hashemi-Golpayegani then termed the decisions taken by the conference as important and overriding. He said: The formation of the central secretariat of the conference in Tehran until the fall of Saddam was approved. Within it, political and military committees, a human rights committee, and a committee to study Iraq's future constitution will continue their work. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the imam of the nation responded to sentiments expressed by the delegates.

Time Said 'Right' for Conference

NC281147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Successful Completion of the Conference on Solidarity with the Iraqi People"]

[Text] The 4-day Conference on Solidarity With the Iraqi People has come to an end. It concluded with a speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the adoption of a 17-point resolution. Participating in this conference were more than 400 Iraqi militants, most of whom are continuing their multi-faceted struggle against the Iraqi regime in several countries of the world, using a variety of military and cultural methods. Clear-sighted, non-Iraqi militants of international standing were also invited in order to render the popular struggles more effective and extensive.

Given the stage reached by the Iraqi people's current struggle and the need for the Iraqi militants to prepare new initiatives based on common principles, the time was right for a conference

on solidarity with the Iraqi people. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, aware of the current need for a popular movement on the domestic front, wisely decided to hold such a conference. This move was warmly welcomed by all groups struggling against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The clear outcome of the conference, the atmosphere of understanding and friendship that prevailed during the search for suitable solutions, as well as the thorough discussion of problems, especially in the committees, exemplified the healthy nature and Islamic climate of the conference.

During the 4 days of the conference, more than 40 speeches were heard, most of which centered on basic matters which were summed up accurately in the various committees. The most important topics discussed by the committees were as follows: first, Iraq's future strategy under a new regime based on the principles of independence, territorial integrity, and national unity; second, ways of carrying out the political struggle against the Iraqi regime; third, the imposed war and the reasons for the Iraqi regime's aggression against Islamic Iran; fourth, ways of stepping up and extending the armed struggle; and fifth, human rights in Iraq.

Among the important events of this conference were speeches by eminent and militant internationally known figures from various countries, who made valid and accurate observations on methods of struggle drawn from experience in confronting oppression in Third World countries. These can of course contribute to the struggle and to the formation of a common front against the 'Aflaqite regime. Furthermore, as stated in the resolution, the (?submissiveness) of the Iraqi nation and the oppression that has existed in that country ever since the British colonialist era were also stressed. It was agreed that international propaganda media should be used to make the cry of the oppressed Iraqi nation heard in the world. The Iraqi people are caught in the prison of Zionist Saddam who, with the martyring of the ulema and mojahedin headed by Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr and Ayatollah Hakim, has brought great pressure to bear on opponents; the Iraqi nation knows that it is only by increasing public awareness and by waging a united, extensive, and multifaceted struggle that it can be liberated from the prison of the Iraqi regime.

Among the points emphasized by participants in the conference and mentioned in various sections of the resolution was the deployment of resources belonging to the oppressed Iraqi nation. This point provided a foundation for the Conference on Solidarity With the Iraqi People. Speakers from various countries, as well as Iraqi militants, emphasized this particular point in their speeches. The untapped resources and the surging wave of talent which exist within the Iraqi people have the potential to direct the Iraqi nation's struggles and destiny.

The final resolution stressed the need to confront Saddam, who is considered to be an element of sedition in the region and who has risen against the Islamic Republic of Iran with the help of world arrogance. The conference condemned all efforts to fan the flames of the war, as well as all resources sent to help protract it. The conference affirmed the Iraqi nation's refusal to obey any agreements signed with arrogant governments and mentors. The resolution noted that Iraq is a country with an Islamic identity. A referendum based on the principles and beliefs of the Iraqi people will be held in the future to determine the country's ruling system.

The speech delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, which discussed basic points pertaining to the fulfillment of Iraq's future objectives, was recorded as an official document of the conference. A council of experts will soon be formed to prepare Iraq's constitution.

The Islamic Republic's initiative to hold this conference and to invite all the forces struggling against the Ba'thist Iraqi regime was a mission undertaken under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni following Iran's great victory over idolatry. The Islamic Republic of Iran today is considered to be the nucleus for the struggle between the world's oppressed and arrogant forces. There is no doubt that the successes that have been achieved in the political and military fields are the result of the intelligence and sagacity of Islamic personages who have been raised with the divine teachings of Islam. The successes accrued by the conference also stem from this fact. It was therefore necessary that those on Iraq's domestic front, with their tremendous human resources and experiences gained from various struggles, be gathered around a specific point. Such an axis point would be able to coordinate the actions of this front with the forces of Islam which have risen to confront the Iraqi regime's aggressions on the foreign front and inflict a blow against the 'Aflaqite regime internally.

Whatever is to fulfill and give meaning to the belief that the present regime in Iraq must be dissolved and a new future constructed must have the following characteristics: devotion to the struggle for Islam, unity, and coordination that will preserve Islamic society, the universality of the movements for struggle, the popular nature of such movements, and a realistic and correct use of military plans and potential.

Anniversary of Afghanistan Occupation Marked

News Conference Held in Qom

LD241453 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] On the eve of the seventh anniversary of occupation of Afghanistan by the aggressive Soviet forces, several Afghan political and religious figures, and representatives of the Islamic groups and militant parties of Afghanistan held a news conference in Qom today, answering questions of the mass media correspondents and explaining their own views on the internal situation in Afghanistan, the role played by the Islamic Republic to remove discord among the hostile factions of Afghanistan, and the influence of the glorious revolution of the Iranian nation on the trend of justice-seeking struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

A representative of Afghanistan's Islamic parties said: The Afghan nation, on the basis of its Islamic and religious motives, has been going through blood and fire during the past 8 years. Thanks to divine succour and deep understanding among the

mujahidin, the noble combatants, and the Muslim nation, many hard mountainous passes have been crossed and during this unequal war against the occupying forces we have managed to foil many enemy plots; and since the essence of the revolution of the Muslim people of Afghanistan is Islam and is inspired by the Islamic Revolution of Iran, global imperialism who, on the one hand has experienced the bitter taste of defeat in Iran and on the other hand is incapable of confronting the Afghan warriors directly, has lost most of its interest in the region, and panic-stricken with the resurgence of Islam and the ever-increasing return of the world nations toward this divine school, global imperialism has resorted to new conspiracies.

Another representative of Afghanistan's Islamic parties, in connection with the forming of a united front between the parties and the struggling groups and solidarity in the ranks of the Afghan strugglers and mujahidin, said: International and regional bandits, and even some domestic brigands, have ambushed and are waiting to see a weakness in the ranks of the mujahidin and strugglers in order to penetrate their midst and to deliver their blows. Studying these problems carefully makes one realize that the difficult path will not reach any destination by slogans alone. However, our nation, through its bravery and selflessness, has proved that the problems can be solved. Today, in the global and international arena, we do not have a sincere ally, except the sympathetic stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on which we can rely. Therefore, in order to increase the chance of achieving success in our struggle, and in order to make the enemy more vulnerable, all the Afghan parties and warring groups should join hands; and along this path, the stronger the ranks of the true warriors, the heavier the enemy losses will be.

One of the religious-political personalities of Afghanistan, speaking about the role played by the clergy in the Afghan people's Islamic movement, said: The role of the clergy in Afghanistan is significant on two fronts: First, on the front of the armed struggle, and second in the war of faith, because the occupying forces, who have now conceded defeat in Afghanistan, are trying to deliver a blow at Islam by pretending themselves to be Muslims. They are trying to brainwash the people with their own wrong idealogies.

A representative of Afghanistan's Islamic groups, referring to the issue that all through history there have been leftist elements in every revolution who lean toward the reactionary forces, in connection with the links between some struggling Afghan parties and the arch satan, the United States, and their request for its assistance, said: Our objectives in the war against the Russian occupiers are: first, to eject the invaders, and second to defend the exalted and sacred aspirations of Islam, in order to establish a neither pro-East nor pro-West government in Afghanistan. If Russia is an aggressor, the United States has also been aggressive in other regions and still is.

In connection with the losses and casualties suffered by the occupying Russian forces since the start of their aggression, another representative of Afghanistan's Islamic groups said: On the basis of statistics given inside the territory of Afghanistan, during the past 7 years of the military invasion about 120,000 Soviet soldiers, officers, and advisors have entered Afghanistan and during this period the Afghan mujahidin have killed about 10,000 of them. The aggressive forces have also suffered heavy losses in arms and materials.

At the conclusion of this conference, the audience said prayers for health and long life of the imam of the nation, final victory for the combatants of Islam, and the liberation of the land of Afghanistan and other oppressed nations.

Afghan Refugees Hold Demonstrations

LD271822 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — Thousands of Afghan refugees here called for the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet occupying forces from their country in a demonstration Saturday on the 7th anniversary of occupation of Afghanistan (Dec 27). The demonstrators chanted slogans stressing the need for continued struggle until an Islamic government is established in the country as well as demanding that Soviet troops leave the country.

Two leading figures of Afghan Islamic groups talked at the rally on the popular struggles of Afghan people. They too called for continued struggle until the establishment of an Islamic government in their country.

Similar ceremonies were held in other Iranian cities.

Larijani, Afghan Front Leaders Meet

LD291726 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 29 dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — The fruits of the revolution should be owned by the proprietor of the tree, and the owners of the revolution are those who are fighting in the bunkers, said the Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani in a meeting with various Afghan freedom party leaders and front representatives.

Larijani who was talking to the Afghans on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan also said that if one day the Soviets leave Afghan territory then their reason for doing so would have been the struggle of the mujahidin.

He added that from the beginning the Geneva talks on the Afghan issue had four basic problems. Firstly the participants intended to solve the matter through East and West equations, secondly the Afghan mujahidin are not represented. Thirdly, the talks give legitimacy to the puppet regime of Afghanistan and fourthly the aggressor benefits from the talks by getting the mujahidin to abandon the people's armed struggle in favor of a negotiated settlement to the issue.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD261705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In a statement issued today by the Foreign Ministry on the occasion of the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated its support for the efforts

being made by the Muslim Afghan nation to gain the right to decide its own future. The statement notes that the key solution to the Afghanistan problem is an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of military forces, an end to the occupation of Afghanistan, an end to interference by arrogant governments, the preparation of the necessary conditions for an honorable return of the refugees, and recognition of Islamic Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity. The statement considers any talks concerning the settlement of the Afghanistan problem without the consideration of the stated conditions and without participation of the true representatives of the Afghan nation as futile.

Envoy to Syria Briefs Majlis Speaker on Lebanon

LD291016 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — The Iranian Ambassador to Syria Mohammad Hasan Akhtari conferred with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Sunday afternoon.

During the meeting Akhtari briefed the Majlis speaker on issues concerning southern Lebanon, and the camps war between Amal and Palestinian forces. He further said the Iranian peace plan to end the clashes has been relatively successful.

According to the report ways to speed up the implementation of the peace plan were evaluated, Irano-Syria relations were reviewed, and ways to confront the Zionist regime and the clashes in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli were discussed.

Received by Khamene'i

LD292110 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday and briefed him on the latest developments of the camps-war in Lebanon. He also reported to the presidnet on the country of his assignment.

President Khamene'i gave Akhtari some guidelines concerning Tehran-Damascus relations, regional developments, and the situation of Lebanon.

Akhtari had earlier met Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday.

Sri Lankan Economic, Oil Delegation Arrives

LD281626 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald De Mel heading an economic-oil delegation arrived here Sunday and was welcomed at the airport by Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari.

Upon his arrival, De Mel told IRNA that during his six-day visit here he would submit President 'Ali Khamene'i a message from his Sri Lankan counterpart Junius Jayewardene and hold talks with Iranian officials on expansion of Tehran-Colombo economic and commercial relations. He also announced that Sri Lanka is still willing to import oil from Iran and export tea to this country.

The Iranian commerce minister also said that talks would be held with the Sri Lankan delegation on Iran's purchase of tea, rice, and spices from Sri Lanka in return for oil and non-oil commodities.

Trade Talks Open

LD281917 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The first round of talks between visiting Sri Lankan Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald De Mel and Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari started here Sunday. During the meeting, also attended by ranking Iranian Oil and Foreign Affairs Ministries officials, De Mel announced his country's interest in expanding its relations with the Islamic Republic in various fields.

In response, Ja'fari said that there are good grounds on the basis of which the two countries can promote their commercial relations. He also said that efforts should be made to boost the volume of Tehran-Colombo trade as well as Iran's non-oil exports to Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan finance and planning minister arrived here Sunday at the head of a delegation.

Sri Lankan Minister, Zanjani Meet

LD291949 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — The visiting Sri Lankan Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald De Mel conferred with Iran's minister of budget and planning, Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani, on bilateral economic and technical cooperation especially trade exchanges here Monday afternoon. Talks were also held on ways Iran can contribute to the execution of development plans of Sri Lanka particularly in dam-construction.

The Sri Lankan minister arrived here Sunday at the head of an economic-oil delegation.

Pakistani Oil, Economic Delegation Arrives

LD241909 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24, IRNA — Pakistan's Deputy Oil Minister Ezhar ul-Haq [title as received] heading an economic delegation arrived here Wednesday at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili.

During its three-day visit here, the Pak [abbreviation as received] delegation will discuss matters of mutual interest with the Iranian oil and economic officials.

Discussions Begin

LD252204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Iranian and Pakistani officials today started discussions in Tehran about the purchase of 1 million metric tons of Iranian crude and the sale of Pakistani goods to Iran. According to the report of the Central News Unit, Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Pakistan Mr Ezhar ul-Haq accompanied by a number of officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, as well as the director of Karachi Oil Refinery who are in Tehran today, met with Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, minister of economy and finance and the Iranian chairman of the joint Iran-Pakistan Economic Commission. They discussed ways to implement the economic memorandum that was signed between the two countries last summer and the means to eliminate executive problems associated with its implementation.

In this meeting the Iranian minister of economy and finance, emphasizing the importance of the mutual implementation of the economic memorandum by the two countries, expressed his hope that if the Pakistani side implements its commitments within the framework of that memorandum, the Islamic Republic of Iran will purchase a considerable quantity of goods from Pakistan.

According to this report, following the discussions of the Pakistani delegation with Deputy Oil Minister of Iran Kazempur-Ardabili, it was announced that in this meeting the question of the sale of 1 million metric tons of oil to Pakistan during the coming year has been discussed. The Iranian deputy oil minister told our correspondent that within this framework, it has been decided that from next January the Islamic Republic of Iran will deliver about 100,000 metric tons of oil per month to Pakistan.

According to earlier agreements between the two countries, during the coming year Pakistan will export $50 million worth of goods, mainly in the form of rice and textiles, to Iran. The two countries will study the possibility of increasing this figure and the purchase of other items, including wheat and sugar, from Pakistan.

Oil Minister Says OPEC Outcome 'Successful'

LD281859 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh briefed Sunday's cabinet session on the upward trend of the oil prices after the latest OPEC meet held earlier this month.

Aqazadeh also reported on OPEC's production ceiling plans to boost oil prices. Describing the outcome of the 80th OPEC meeting as "successful" both from the economic and political point of view, he said it cut to size saboteurs like the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Tehran on Implications of 'Karbala-IV'

NC290841 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] The devastating "Karbala-IV" operation was a calculated blow inflicted as a result of bothersome behavior by Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime. As such, it should be assessed from several different points of view.

First of all, the fighters of Islam crossed the Arvand Rud River and attacked fortifications held by the criminal enemy. They caused extensive damage, and killed or wounded more than 9,500 troops. This proves that the initiative all along the front rests with the Army of Islam and that its fighters can deliver their terrible strikes anywhere on the battlefield.

Politicians around the world have taken this into account, and as the French paper *Liberation* wrote: The "Karbala-IV" operation shows that Iran has the initiative in this war, and is determined to bring down Saddam's regime through successive blows.

"Karbala-IV" also taught Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime that if it continues to commit crimes and kill innocent residents of our towns, the fighters of Islam will retaliate. They will infiltrate deep inside Iraq, and, with their effective weapons, take direct revenge on the 'Aflaqite criminals at the front for the blood of innocent women and children they shed so unjustly.

Since the bloodthirsty 'Aflaqite enemy understands only the logic of force, it can only be brought to its senses through powerful blows. Only then will it reconsider its criminal plans, the murder of innocents, and the bombing of civilian targets. Those in our country who have suffered may rest assured that the criminal enemy has paid for some of its crimes and will bear heavier punishments in the future, as well.

"Karbala-IV" also carried a message for those supposedly responsible, international organizations, particularly the Security Council. If they adopt a policy of silence and indifference to the Iraqi regime's crimes, thus encouraging Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime to violate international law in one way or another each day, and to attack civilians, they will have ultimately paved the way for Baghdad's more rapid collapse. In addition, this action sent a signal to those global and regional groups that will be meeting in the future. The participants in the ICO summit, for instance, which is to be held in Kuwait, should consider the fact that the Muslim people of Iran are defending their legal rights. Indeed, their resolution in doing so is so great that the enemy's criminal policies will never make them flinch. Thus, those attending the conference should make a correct study of the war Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The criminal acts by Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime, including its assaults on residential areas, sea-lanes, and civilian flight paths, as well as its use of chemical weapons, should be dealt with seriously.

One of the most important effects of "Karbala-IV" was that, to a certain extent, it clarified the general situation inside Iraq. The intense propaganda campaign launched by Baghdad's 'Aflaqite regime in the wake of this operation, and its futile attempts to

pass off its defeat as a victory to the Iraqi public, actually pointed to the existence of a grave psychological problem. Iraq has no alternative but to resort to lies and a burst of propaganda to free itself from this difficulty. A group of Iraqi commanders captured recently during "Karbala-IV" said: Your mass mobilization has greatly weakened the morale of Iraqi soldiers, and the men of the Iraqi Armed Forces fear the slightest movement by the fighters of Islam at the front.

One of the same prisoners added that Iraqi troops have been shaken. These confessions by Iraqi POW's explain the frenzied propaganda campaign begun by Baghdad's 'Alfaqite regime. The Ba'thist military, as well as the mentors of Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime, have realized that in view of the strength of the Army of Islam, the Islamic Republic is not bluffing. When it sends immense forces to the fronts it is taking strong and calculated measures. Commenting on this, an Iraqi officer taken captive recently noted: The Iraqi military has been making a careful analysis of Iran's social, military, and political resources for about a year now, and has concluded that the Iraqi Army lacks the strength to face the mammoth force of the Iranian people.

Given the spread of such opinions within the Armed Forces of Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime, it is only natural for Baghdad to make a stir, to use false propaganda to strengthen the morale of its men, and to encourage those deceived by Saddam to continue fighting. One can see some interesting themes in 'Aflaqite propaganda that make this fact clearer. By way of illustration, the 'Aflaqite regime is doing its best to portray "Karbala-IV" as a wide-ranging action. It also claimed that this was the decisive operation by the fighters of Islam. This reflects the fear which Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime has of the Islamic Army's destiny-making offensive. Iraq's criminal leaders have actually admitted that their Armed Forces are gripped by terror and anxiety. They have tried to make it appear that, in one way or another, the Islamic Army's decisive operation is over. They are, at the same time, working to surmount the fear that controls the lives of Iraqi troops. Meanwhile, the Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime is attempting to distort the objectives of "Karbala-IV," and to ignore its victorious goals. By giving imaginary facts and figures on such matters as the damage sustained by the forces of Islam, the 'Aflaqite regime is trying to make the destruction of its own units — which was the primary aim of this operation — seem insignificant, and thus fool the oppressed people of Iraq. The ridiculous theatrics by the Baghdad regime, which included exchanges of messages, presentations of medals and honors, and artillery salutes, were all part of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime's puppet show designed to fool its own people and the world at large. What value do these absurd displays have for those who saw similar things after the "Val Fajr-8" operation? The Muslim people of Iraq, who can sense first hand the weakness of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling their country, will not be tricked by this public deceit.

A Libyan publication had this to say recently about the blows the youth of Iraq have dealt to the feeble regime in Baghdad: The great economic crisis resulting from the Iraqi nation's involvement in a useless war has brought the downfall of the Baghdad regime closer. This publication, which described Saddam as Baghdad's Mussolini, added that the economic difficulties and debts owed by the U.S. imperialist mercenary regime in Iraq have led it to ask for loans from its European masters. However, Saddam's mentors know that his time is almost up, and have turned him down.

While Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime faces these grave problems, and finds a blind alley wherever it turns, it is relying more and more on the weapon of propaganda and is developing an even greater dependence on it. In fact, the continued existence of this regime rests largely on two factors — words and weapons. The words are gradually losing their effect and the weapons are becoming blunt.

Communique No 2,699 Reports Iraqi Losses

LD281646 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy life and equipment losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants on Saturday, siad a military communique here Sunday.

Communique Number 2,699 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the Islamic combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the western fronts Saturday destroying some Iraqi gun emplacements and several trucks carrying ammunition. Enemy fire was also silenced.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Saturday, raging somewhat more heavily in Bubiyan, Zeyd, and Talayeh operational theaters as a result of which considerable casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi troops. Parts of enemy fortifications were also set ablaze in Pich-e Angizeh.

Iraqi tanks suffered heavy damage and their movements were halted in southern operational regions of Yabis and Basra by Iranian artillery fire Saturday.

Iranian forces shelled Iraqi troops and enemy armoured and motorized units in Kani-Sheykh, Helaleh, and Naft Shahr, western fronts, Saturday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions in Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Marivan. Convoys of Iranian patrols successfully reconnoitered enemy positions and returned safely to bases.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 DECEMBER 1986

Iran

U.S. Relations — The Iranian-U.S. talks at The Hague are not connected with the issue of U.S. hostages in Lebanon or with Robert McFarlane's secret trip to Tehran, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in remarks cited by IRNA 31 December.

Stand on ICO Summit — In a 30 December meeting with the visiting ICO secretary general, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that it is "not right" for Iran to participate in the ICO summit in Kuwait, IRNA reported. Claiming that Kuwait is acting like an Iraqi province, he said there is little difference between holding the conference in Kuwait or in Iraq. Prime Minister Musavi likewise told the ICO official that Kuwait cannot guarantee the security of the meeting because Iraqi aircraft overfly its territory and Iraqi "terrorist" networks operate inside Kuwait, according to Tehran radio.

Karbala 4 Offensive — The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters commented on the recent offensive at a press conference reported by IRNA, stressing that Karbala 4 was a small-scale attack involving less than 6,000 Iranian troops. On the other hand, Mojahedin-e Khalq sources cited by the *Jordan Times* gave credence to Iraqi claims about Iranian casualties, asserting that over 35,000 Iranians were killed or wounded in the attack across the Shatt al-'Arab.

Israel

Former Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche denied a U.S. press report that he proposed the transfer of money from the Iran arms deal to the Nicaraguan contras. Speaking in a Jerusalem radio interview, Kimche said the story is "ridiculous and nonsense," and he said that Colonel Oliver North must be "trying to pass the blame, if he really said those things."

Egypt

Relations With Israel — Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir in Cairo 30 December, MENA reported, noting that they discussed ways to activate the peace process. 'Abd al-Majid said afterward that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Egypt as soon as an agenda is prepared. An IDF radio report on the talks noted that Tamir was presented with new Egyptian ideas for peace in the Middle East.

Internal Affairs — MENA reported that opposition members withdrew from a People's Assembly session during which an amendment to the electoral law was approved. The leaders of the neo-Wafd group and the Socialist Labor Party complained that the new measure is not a radical reform and that insufficient time was allotted to discuss it. On the other hand, NDP deputies said the new bill will strengthen democracy by allowing independent candidates to run for elections separately from the party lists.

Earlier, in a 29 December statement broadcast by Cairo radio, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi told the Assembly that the government seeks a "constructive dialogue" with opposition parties. Noting the need to strengthen internal security, he said that a dialogue on this issue with parties holding various views will promote mutual understanding and strengthen national unity. Sidqi stressed that the authorities will spare no effort to improve the competence of the internal security forces to protect society from dangers threatening it. He also referred to the negotiations with the IMF during his lengthy policy review, stating that Egypt will not accept any conditions incompatible with its interests.

Lebanon

Palestinian officials based in Damascus welcomed the Amal Movement leader's cease-fire announcement but accused Amal forces of continuing to shell Palestinian camps in Beirut, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Regarding the possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit, the Lebanese Forces Command Council stated that the agenda for a summit should include a timetable for the Syrian Army's withdrawal from Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

In another development, the "organization of the oppressed of the earth" stated that it has executed three Lebanese Jews who were kidnapped in Beirut last year, Beirut radio reported.

Libya and the USSR

JANA reported that the Soviet ambassador gave Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a new year message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ndjamena radio warned of a "Soviet-Libyan plot" against Chad, asserting that the USSR has sent military experts into northern Chad to assist Libyan forces.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced his government's intention to establish a high coordination council for southern Sudan headed by an independent southerner, SUNA reported. In remarks broadcast by Omdurman radio, he assured southerners that all Sudanese Muslims accept that Sudan is a multireligious society. Accusing the SPLA of issuing false reports about the course of the war in the south, he denied the SPLA's claim to have sunk a convoy of barges on the Nile.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 251 *31 December 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Razmjo, Wakil Made Full Members of PDPA Politburo ..... C 1
Kabul Reports 'CIA Spies' Crushed 24 Dec ..... C 1

INDIA

Outcome of Talks With Pakistan Reviewed ..... E 1
Arunachal Pradesh Thanks Gandhi for Statehood ..... E 1
Group of 6 Urges Talks on Nuclear Weapons ..... E 1
Commentator Notes Nuclear Research Achievement ..... E 1
Bomb Explodes Near Madras; Fire in Delhi ..... E 2
Discussions Held on Extremism in Tripura ..... E 2
Bangladesh To Take Back Refugees From Tripura ..... E 2
Punjab Strike Passes 'Peacefully' 30 Dec ..... E 3
12 'Hardcore Terrorists' Captured in Amritsar ..... E 3
4 Intruders 'From Pakistan' Killed in Punjab ..... E 3
AFP Reports Arrest of 900 Afghans in New Delhi ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Returns From PRC Visit ..... F 1
Goal of Recent Talks 'Enduring' Ties With India ..... F 1
New Maritime Agency Launches 'Sea Patrols' ..... F 1
Five Foreign 'Saboteurs' Captured With Weapons ..... F 1

IRAN

Khamene'i New Year Message Urges 'Struggle' ..... I 1
'Banking Negotiations' Not Connected to Hostages ..... I 1
ICO Secretary General Pirzada Continues Visit ..... I 1
Meets Musavi; Views Summit Venue ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker Questions Venue ..... I 2
Pirzada Departs After 3-Day Visit ..... I 2
Economy Minister Meets Visiting Sri Lankan ..... I 2
Velayati Confers With Official ..... I 3
Deputy Minister, Afghan Party Official Meet ..... I 3
Montazeri Confers With Lebanese Clergyman ..... I 3
Velayati Receives Clergyman ..... I 3
Lebanon 'Facing Grave Difficulties' ..... I 3
Lebanese Youth Honored for Killing Israelis ..... I 4
Rafiqdust Explains 'Karbala-4' Objectives ..... I 4
News Conference Held on Offensive ..... I 4
Opposition on 'Complete Failure' *[Amman JORDAN TIMES]* ..... I 5
Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim of Basra Attack ..... I 6
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 6
Communique No 2,700 Issued ..... I 6
Communique No 2,701 ..... I 6
Iraqi Ammunition Depot 'Destroyed' ..... I 7
IRGC Reports Peshmerga Operations ..... I 7
Iraqi Battalion Surrenders ..... I 7

Razmjo, Wakil Made Full Members of PDPA Politburo

LD311601 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Kabul, 10 Jadi [31 December] — An extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was held [date not specified]. General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib spoke about his official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union and about party tasks concerning national reconciliation. The statement was heard with great warmth and enthusiasm.

The participants of the plenum then continued their work in five sections. In the first section, which was lead by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, representatives of the DRA Armed Forces party activists took part. In the second section, which was lead by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, matters concerning party work among the workers, artisans, and traders were discussed. Section three, which was lead by Comrade Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of Politburo and secretary of the party Central Committee, discussed work among the farmers.

Section four, which was lead by Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Haydar Masud discussed training and ideological questions. Section five, which was lead by Candidate Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo Mahmud Barialay and Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najmoddin Kawiani assessed and discussed work with the DRA state and social organization cadre.

In all these sections, in which 135 people spoke, profoundly interesting, open, and comprehensive discussions were held in connection with various aspects of the policy of national reconciliation. The speakers put forward constructive proposals based on principled critical characteristics. The plenum continued its work on the following day. [passage omitted] The plenum also discussed organizational matters.

Comrade Zohur Razmjo was elevated from candidate member of the Politburo to full member of Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee. DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Abdol Wakil was elected full member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrades Abdol Karim Baha and Najibullah [not PDPA general secretary] were elected to full membership of the PDPA Central Committee. Comrades Basir Ranjbar, Abdol Rahman Basam, Jura Beg, Faruq Karmand, Hesamoddin Hesam, Azim Zormati, Mir Afghan Bawari were elected candidate members of the PDPA Central Committee. A comprehensive resolution concerning the first question was passed.

At the conclusion of the plenum, Comrade Najib delivered a comprehensive statement. The plenum concluded its work in an atmosphere of party unity and revolutionary solidarity. A brief text of the statement delivered by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib and the resolution of the plenum will be transmitted in the future.

Kabul Reports 'CIA Spies' Crushed 24 Dec

LD272030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Abdorrahman and Anas — Two CIA spies of Arab origin — together with Mowlawi Sayd Bashi, one of the well-known criminals of the notorous Golboddin band, were crushed as a result of the victorious operation carried out by the country's heroic Armed Forces on the 24 December in the surroundings of Parwan Province.

The BIA correspondent's report says that these spies were sent to our country to carry out subversive actions and they have been perpetrating terrorism at a time when our party and government have announced national reconciliation in order to stop the bloodshed and murder of Afghan by Afghan; and (here) comprehensive, speedy, efforts are underway for the national peace in the country.

The dispatch of these two persons — the agents of CIA — to assist and encourage the counterrevolutionary bands to fight and shed blood, shows that U.S. imperialism and the hellish CIA administration chose their agents from the Arab and other Islamic countries and make use of them broadly in the undeclared war against our revolutionary country.

This is not the first time that the U.S., British, and other reactionary countries' spies, have met the punishment for their deeds during the thievish operations and their direct part in the war against our country; but we have also witnessed the crushing of (?Toranson) — a U.S. subject — and (?Stewart Barni) — a spy of the British intelligence service — and a number of other spies and agents of the CIA, who, under the name of journalists and physicians, were waging conspiracies against our revolutionary country and our free-born people.

This time also two CIA agents — who had illegally entered our country for terrorist purposes and to give encouragement to the counterrevolutionary bands and had been teaching the notorious Golboddin band how to use the weapons imported from the imperialist countries — have been punished for their shameful and interfering deeds by the vigilant security forces and cooperation of the toiling inhabitants of the region.

Despite all this open interference, the imperialist countries and their allies, via their lying loudspeakers, still claim that they are supporting the solution to the events around Afghanistan and are allegedly making an effort to this end. However the crushing of these two well-known spies and other spies, reveals that imperialism never wants or wanted to end fratricide and to cease shedding the blood of Afghan by Afghan in our revolutionary country, so that our peoples can live in peace and become united in the construction of Afghanistan.

Outcome of Talks With Pakistan Reviewed

BK291722 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1545 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Spotlight: "Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary-Level Talks," a cable dispatch by the All-India Radio Islamabad Correspondent R. K. Mathur]

[Text] The recent visit of the foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, to Islamabad and his parleys with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, marks a significant step forward in the process of normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. The two foreign secretaries had ample reason to be, as they put it at their joint press conference on Sunday night, entirely satisfied with the result of their talks. A very significant and substantial progress has been achieved in the entire spectrum of relationship and the dialogue would be continued in New Delhi early next year.

With a fresh route on expansion of private trade between the two countries agreed upon, a way has been found to convene the meeting of the subcommissions on trade and consular matters. These as well as the meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission could now take place in the first half of the new year. The Indian side expressed its readiness to send a railway delegation to conclude the agreement to reopen the Khokrapara-Munabao rail link and the Pakistani side indicated that a date for the visit would be suggested soon. On the understanding reached between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and President Zia last year that neither country would attack the other's nuclear installations, the two sides made good progress in drafting the legal document embodying it and some technical matters remain to be sorted out.

About the reconciliation of the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship, and understanding and the Pakistani draft of a no-war pact, the dialogue would be continued at their next round in New Delhi.

Mr Venkateswaran faced a barrage of questions from newsmen which reflected the degree of impatience that exists in the two countries at the slow progress of the process of normalization. He assured the newsmen that India had never described itself as a power which is dominating the region. On terrorism, he said the two sides discussed ways and means of dispelling perceptions which are not consistent with the statements made by the two governments. He said he too wished the progress of talks for normalization to be faster. He, however, pointed out that each round of talks had moved the process of normalization further. It is noteworthy that the two countries have over the years come a long way from, for instance, the early 70's when there was a virtual absence of relations in almost every field between the two countries. Since then, there has been a significant and substantial progress away from conflict and confrotation and toward good-neighborly and harmonious relations. Now there are frequent meetings at the high level in various fields. This is a pointer toward the intensification of dialogue between the two countries.

The meeting of the foreign secretaries was held in pursuance of the decison taken by the two prime ministers — Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo — at Bangalore in November during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit. The two sides reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to early normalization of relations on the basis of the spirit of the Simla agreement and in keeping with what was agreed at the meeting of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Ganhi, and the president, General Ziaul Haq, on the 17th of December last year.

The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere and were marked by a spirit of mutual understanding. As the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, put it, we would be satisfied if these talks have made a small, modest, humble contribution toward a better understanding between the two countries.

Arunachal Pradesh Thanks Gandhi for Statehood

BK291003 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has thanked the prime minister for granting statehood to the Union territory. The house adopted a resolution to this effect unanimously in Itanagar today. Moving the resolution the chief minister, Mr Gegong Apong, said this has met the long cherished desires and aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

The House at its 1-day session expressed surprise over the Chinese reaction to conferment of statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. The chief minister said there is no historical or documentary evidence to prove China's claim on the Union territory.

Group of 6 Urges Talks on Nuclear Weapons

BK301042 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The leaders of the 6-nation 5-continent peace and disarmament initiative have called upon the superpowers to start comprehensive talks as soon as possible next year to eliminate nuclear weapons. In a statement on the eve of the new year, the leaders of Mexico, Argentina, Sweden, Greece, Tanzania, and India said there was no justification for nuclear testing by any country. They appealed to the United States to reconsider its policy on nuclear testing so that a bilateral moratorium can be established.

The statement noted with regret the recent announcement by the Soviet Union to terminate its unilateral moratorium and to resume nuclear testing following the first U.S. test next year. The joint statement was released simultaneously in all the six capitals.

Commentator Notes Nuclear Research Achievement

BK271400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1340 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Commentary by K.S. Jayaraman of PTI]

[Text] Early next year, India will be commissioning a new nuclear research reactor fueled by a man-made material derived from the beach sands of Kerala. When built, it would probably be the only

reactor of its kind anywhere in the world running on Uranium-233, also known as a third fuel. The reactor named Kamini is in the final stage of construction at Kalpakkam near Madras. The beach sands in the coast of Kerala State in India contain large quantities of thorium, a fertile nuclear fuel. One of the main objectives of India's atomic energy program is to harness this resource for power development. Thorium by itself cannot be burned in a nuclear reactor. It must be coverted into Uranium-233 which is a (?fission) fuel. This conversion is accomplished by particles called neutrons which are generated inside nuclear reactors.

To produce Uranium-233, a reactor core is surrounded by a blanket of thorium metal and irradiated by neutrons. The irradiated thorium is then removed and the Uranium-233 produced is separated. Separation of Uranium-233 from irradiated thorium is in itself a significant achievement. Through thorium irradiation in existing research reactors, Indian scientists have produced sizable quantities of Uranium-233. Even before the construction of Kamini, scientists in Bombay built a small reactor fueled by a solution of Uranium-233 in the form of uranonitrate. Called Purnima-II, it was commissioned in 1984, but it produced no power. Containing less than 400 grams of Uranium-233 in a zinc alloy vessel of the size of an ordinary milk bottle, it was the smallest reactor of its kind in the world. Various physics experiments carried out using Purnima-II provided the scientists the basic data necessary for building larger reactors using Uranium-233. According to Dr N. Srinivasan, leader of the design team, Purnima-II was the first experimental step in the long-term goal of exploiting the vast reserves of thorium in the country. Kamini which is expected to be in operation in March next year is a successor to Purnima-II.

Unlike Purnima-II, which was a zero power reactor, Kamini will produce 30 kilowatts of thermal power and a flux of 1,000 billion neutrons every second, streaming through a pipe of 1 square centimeter in cross section. This reactor, too, will be surprisingly small containing only 600 grams of Uranium-233. Unlike Purnima-II, which used a liquid fuel, Kamini will use Uranium-233 in the form of aluminum alloy plates. The core containing the fuel plates will be immersed inside a pool of water surrounded by a concrete vault. According to the Bhabha Atomic Research Center [BARC], the main purpose of building this reactor is neutron radiography. Neutrons, like X-rays, can be used to take pictures of the inside of metallic objects. Kamini, which is a source of high energy neutrons, will be used for radiography of irradiated fuel elements of the fast breeder test reactor already operating in Kalpakkam. The neutrons coming from Kamini will also be used for activation analysis — a technique to detect impurities in alloys — and for general research in radiation physics.

While Kamini will become a new tool for nuclear research, its construction has given the knowledge and confidence for building electrical power producing reactors in the third stage of India's nuclear program. India is probably the only country pursuing a program for exploiting thorium. It is to the credit of Indian atomic scientists that this thorium technology is totally indigenous. The design of Kamini, fabrication of its components control and safety systems were all carried out at BARC itself. India will step up production of Uranium-233 by irradiating more thorium in the fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam and the recently commissioned Dhruv reactor at Trombay. At the same time, Indian scientists are exploring the possibility of converting thorium into Uranium-233 by using fusion neutrons and accelerator-produced neutrons. Currently, experiments are being carried jointly by scientists of India and Switzerland to explore this possibility. Indian scientists believe that in the next 10 years, these alternative methods of producing Uranium-233 would become a real source of power.

Bomb Explodes Near Madras; Fire in Delhi

BK300918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A powerful bomb explosion on the railway track between (Chetput) and (Nungampakkam) stations in Madras last night disrupted the suburban electric train services for nearly 3 hours. Senior police and railway officials rushed to the spot where 1-meter deep crater has been caused by the explosion. Another unexploded device was defused with the help of explosive experts to avert further explosions.

In New Delhi, goods worth several lakhs of rupees were destroyed when a big fire broke out in the industrial complex of Kirtinagar early this morning. Thirty-six fire tenders fought for nearly 3 hours to extinguish the fire. There was no loss of life. Lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapur, and police officials reached the accident site immediately and personally supervised the operation. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Discussions Held on Extremism in Tripura

BK291007 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Union minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, has said that certain suggestions have come up during his discussions with the Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, in Agartala to contain TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremist activities in the state. He told newsmen in Agartala yesterday that they discussed various aspects of the problem and the suggestions will be examined and further discussed when the chief minister meets the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi on the 5th of next month.

The Union minister of communications, Mr Santosh Mohan Dey; the Tripura governor, General Krishna Rao; and the Union home secretary, Mr Somiah; were also present during the discussions. The governor is visiting today the affected areas in Kamalpur.

Bangladesh To Take Back Refugees From Tripura

BK301603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Bangladesh has agreed to take back over 24,300 tribal refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts who were taking shelter in 4 relief camps in Tripura. The agreement was reached at the

meeting between Tripura and Bangladesh officials at Sabroom in South Tripura yesterday.

A government spokesman told our Agartala correspondent that 300 families will be repatriated to Bangladesh every day from the 15th of next month.

Punjab Strike Passes 'Peacefully' 30 Dec

BK301645 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The 2d day of the Punjab bundh [strike] passed off peacefully without any major incident. The bundh had been called by the two factions of the All India Sikh Students Federation. Reports say that the response to today's bundh was not as much as yesterday's. While most of the shops at various places in the state were closed in the morning, they opened during the course of the day. A large number of buses ran on the main routes and no passenger was stranded. The buses to and from Chandigarh from all district headquarers plied normally.

The Punjab minister of state for home, Captain Kamaljit Singh, told newsmen in Chandigarh this evening that attempts were made to disrupt road traffic at three places in Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala Districts. He said the obstructions were removed immediately. The bundh did not affect normal life in the state, he said. Attempts were also made at three places in Kapurthala District to disrupt telecommunications.

Meanwhile, two intruders from Pakistan were apprehended by a BSF [Border Security Forces] patrol party in the Khemkaran area last night. The BSF handed them over to the police.

12 'Hardcore Terrorists' Captured in Amritsar

BK291701 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested 12 hardcore terrorists in Amritsar District today. The district police chief, Mr Izar Alam, said the arrested are the main cream of terrorists. The arrested included Amrik Singh, Jaswant Singh, Daljit Singh, Kulwant Singh, and (Sukhed) Singh.

Mr Izar Alam said that with the arrest of Kulwant Singh the police have solved the (Balwava) case in which six members of the family were killed. Another terrorist, Manjit Singh has admitted bank robbery. He has also confessed to have murdered Inspector Jarnail Singh. Manjit Singh was also involved in the (Khudda) killing. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the arrested terrorists.

4 Intruders 'From Pakistan' Killed in Punjab

BK291603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, four intruders from Pakistan were killed in an encounter with a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party in the border area of Khemkaran yesterday. According to a delayed report, eight intruders who sneaked into Indian territory opened fire when challenged by the BSF. The patrol party returned the fire killing four of them while the others escaped to Pakistan.

In Hoshiarpur District, one person was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists in a village near Balachar police station this morning. The victim has been identified as the sarpanch [head] of the village.

AFP Reports Arrest of 900 Afghans in New Delhi

BK271050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 27 (AFP) — Police arrested more than 900 Afghan refugees planning to hold protest marches to the Indian Parliament here on the seventh anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, police said Saturday. Police broke up one protest march near the Indian Parliament and arrested more than 200 Afghan refugees, including 10 children, police said.

A further 720 Afghan refugees were arrested in different areas of the capital before they could join the protest march, a police spokesman said. The arrested included 82 children who had assembled carrying banners, placards, and pamphlets demanding unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The protesters have been charged with defying orders which ban protest marches in the Indian capital, but they would be released later in the day, police said.

"We demand the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from our land and the right of self-determination to the Afghans," a statement from the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin in India said.

Some 6,400 Afghan refugees are officially registered with the New Delhi authorities, but an estimated 10,000 live in the capital.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Returns From PRC Visit

BK301627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan and China have identical views on various global and regional issues, as well as bilateral matters. Speaking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this evening after returning from his week-long visit to China, he said the Chinese leaders are fully aware of the security environment around Pakistan. They have reiterated their support for Pakistan's national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Chinese leaders have also lauded Pakistan's efforts for reducing tension in South Asia and for promoting regional cooperation.

On Afghanistan, the foreign minister said China and Pakistan agree that the Afghanistan problem should be peacefully solved based on recognized principles. He said the views of China and Pakistan on the current situation for a political solution to this problem are identical, and China lauds the efforts of Pakistan in this connection. In reply to a question he said he exchanged views with the Chinese leaders on the situation in the eastern border. He said the Chinese leaders are well aware of our position [previous word in English] and the security situation in this region and they appreciated the recent talks between Pakistan and India.

Goal of Recent Talks 'Enduring' Ties With India

BK291411 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1610 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Commentary by M.H. Askari]

[Text] High-level contacts between Pakistan and India, which remained suspended for some months, have been resumed once again. The interior secretaries of the two countries had wide-ranging talks in Lahore about a week ago. The foreign secretaries have also concluded their 2-day talks in Islamabad. Pakistan has always favored establishment of normal, friendly relations with its neighbor. For this reason, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had met the Indian prime minister in New Delhi in December last. More recently on the occasion of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Bangalore, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, had a detailed meeting with his Indian counterpart on matters of mutual concern.

The talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India had no fixed agenda. The idea was to give both sides the opportunity to discuss and resolve irritants which stand in the way of harmonious relationship.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, during his meeting with the Indian foreign secretary stated categorically that Pakistan desires friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbors, particularly India; that in the desire to normalize relations, India would not find Pakistan lagging behind in taking all necessary measures. Nevertheless, in the interest of a clear understanding of each other's position, Mr Noorani drew the Indian foreign secretary's attention to the belligerent anti-Pakistan statements of certain Indian leaders which could vitiate the atmosphere and jeopardize the process of normalization.

On its part, Pakistan has invariably demonstrated moderation in the expression of its views. Even though recently there were reports of the massing of an extraordinarily large number of India forces on the border, the president in an interview to a London daily reiterated that Pakistan was on a peace offensive and refused to be provoked. The president also stated that at his meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi last year, it had been decided that Pakistan and India would take all necessary steps to generate mutual confidence. Although, subsequently, certain indicators from across the border were not very helpful, yet Pakistan has remained hopeful that the climate would improve.

The talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries would go a long way in view of (?certain) initiatives already taken at the highest level which dealt with the entire spectrum of problems standing in the way of normal relations. The interior secretaries meeting in Lahore earlier last week has reaffirmed the resolve of both governments to establish neighborly and cooperative relations on the basis of sovereign equality, independence, and due regard for each other's territorial integrity. The talks between the foreign secretaries, it is hoped, will further strengthen this resolve, for in this resolve lies the key to an enduring and dependable relationship between Pakistan and India.

New Maritime Agency Launches 'Sea Patrols'

BK301144 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The newly created Maritime Security Agency has already carried out a number of sea patrols on a trial basis as part of its overall aim of enforcing Pakistan's rights over its exclusive economic zone. The zone stretches 200 miles out into the Arabian Sea. A spokesman of the agency said in Karachi today that the agency will enforce compliance by foreign vessels of Pakistan's exclusive fishing and other economic rights in the different stretches of the Arabian Sea as defined in the Maritime Zone Act [of] 1983.

Five Foreign 'Saboteurs' Captured With Weapons

BK310940 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] According to APP [*Associated Press of Pakistan*], scouts from Chaman foiled an attempt by five foreign saboteurs to smuggle a large quantity of arms and ammunition into Pakistan and arrested them. The arms and ammunition include several anti-aircraft guns, 40 mortar rounds, 30 rocket launchers, 15 antitank landmines, 15 kilograms of explosives, fuses for 20 bombs, and a radio set.

Khamene'i New Year Message Urges 'Struggle'

LD311002 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a message issued Wednesday, congratulated world Christian community, Iranian Christians, especially, on the occasion of the new year.

The message said that history expects the global Christian community, its clergy, and the world-wide adherents of the religion, who take inspiration from the struggle of the Jesus Christ (AS) to fight against the satans of the time.

Birth of Jesus Christ (AS), continued the message, brought divine blessings and abundance to a nation which was then suffering from injustice, discrimination, and deprivation.

Christ's message, said the president, was monotheism, war for God Almighty and campaign against injustice. The same eternal divine message, he added, calls on the followers of all divine religions, to wage holy war for God, struggle against oppressors and satanic powers.

History, he stressed, expects Christians and the Christian clergy throughout the world inspired by divine teachings of Jesus Christ (AS) to fight against satans of the time and materialise the sublime objectives of Christ (AS).

In another part of the message the president paid tribute and respect to those Christian families whose sons have been martyred in protecting the homeland and safeguarding values of the revolution. He further hoped that the coming year will be a happy and prosperous year for all Iranian Christians.

'Banking Negotiations' Not Connected to Hostages

LD311026 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that the banking negotiations within the framework of the Algiers accord, are by no means connected to the American hostages in Lebanon or the clandestine trip of McFarlane to Tehran.

Speaking after the Cabinet ministers session the prime minister added that the International Court at The Hague had approved the case some five months ago and if there is no result, the matter will be brought up in The Hague again.

The Cabinet ministers discussed the latest internal and external developments and the minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust, explained the objectives of the Karbala-4 offensive.

More on the offensive launched in southern war fronts last week, he said that the enemy fronts were shattered and the Iraqi commanders were caught by surprise and this increased the enemy casualties by several folds. Even the enemy's deployment of chemical weapons against the Islamic forces was not of much help for the Iraqi forces.

ICO Secretary General Pirzada Continues Visit

Meets Musavi; Views Summit Venue

LD301243 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] This morning Secretary General Pirzada of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], who is in Tehran, met with Prime Minsiter Mir Hoseyn Musavi. During the meeting, the ICO secretary general briefed the prime minister on the progress of his talks with our country's responsible officials and changes in this organization during the past 2 years. Referring to the importance of participation by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the ICO summit and Iran's well-deserved role in solving problems of the Islamic countries, Mr Pirzada expressed hope that by attending the summit at the highest level, Iran would bring about the conditions required for its success.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi later gave a speech noting the role that this Islamic organization could play in solving difficulties of Islamic states. He said that if the ICO were to change its stances in principle, we believe it can play a just role in solving Islamic states' problems at the international level. It could safeguard the interests of all Islamic countries, free from racial or national prejudices.

About the venue of the Islamic summit, the prime minister emphasized: The summit venue should be a safe place and the host country should be capable of securing this safety at the level suitable for the outstanding officials of the Islamic states. The prime minister said: Under the circumstances in which Iraqi aircraft appear in Kuwaiti skies every moment, how can this country safeguard the security of the Islamic summit? The prime minister added: The Kuwaitis are incapable of preventing Iraqi aircraft from violating their country's airspace. So do you think Kuwait meets the standard when truck loads of explosives are being transported for Saddam's regime within a few kilometers of the Islamic summit venue, and while the terrorist and espionage branches of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime are active inside Kuwait, how can Kuwait be considered a safe place for holding such a summit?

The prime minister emphasized: At a time when the warmongering and criminal regime of Saddam is in close proximity to the summit venue and commits daily crimes in open violation of international law, disrupting the security of civilian airlines, it is appropriate to worry about holding the Islamic summit in such a place. The prime minister went on: Kuwait even failed 2 months ago to convince Saddam's aggressive regime not to threaten the plane carrying Al-'Atiqi, the adviser to the amir of Kuwait, who was taking a message to Iranian President Mr Khamene'i; eventually, the Kuwaiti plane was forced to change course. Other clear examples of the Iraqi regime's violation of international law, considered to be a grave danger to the region's countries, are the crime committed by the Iraqi planes when they attacked the plane carrying Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahya in 1982 and condemnation of Iraq by the International Civil Aviation Organization, the ICAO.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed that some highly prominent figures are among those attending the ICO summit. He says it is

not wise to gather outstanding personalities from the Islamic countries in a place that faces such danger. The prime minister added: Apart from the security problems of the summit, Kuwait has openly supported the warmongering regime of Saddam, politically, militarily and economicelly — and this has exacerbated the war's destruction. And now that it is considered to be the host of the Islamic summit, it should also be taken into consideration that not only has it not been neutral in the war, it has practically supported the Iraqi regime. This shows that Kuwait is even incapable of recognizing its own interests.

On the basis of this report, at the conclusion of this meeting, ICO Secretary General Pirzada, referring to the importance of neutrality of the country hosting the summit, called upon Iran to assist this organization in solving problems of the Islamic states by continuing to cooperate with the ICO.

Majlis Speaker Questions Venue

LD301644 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that Kuwait was a small state putting herself at the disposal of an aggressive country and that it was acting like an Iraqi province. Speaking in a meeting with the visiting secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Majlis speaker told him that it would not make much difference if the ICO held its summit meet in the (Iraqi) city of Basra.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks came after Pirzada's request for Iran to have an active presence in the ICO fifth summit meet to be held in Kuwait in late January.

"It is not right for us to participate in the ICO summit meet in a small country whose ports have taken the place of (Iraqi ports) of Basra and Umm Qasr and where Iraqi bound arms loaded ships have anchored," the imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council further stated.

Pointing to Kuwait's partiality in the Iraqi imposed war, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said even if Iran overlooked this partiality, "we still think Kuwait is not qualified to host a conference in which 46 Islamic states have membership."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the imam's SDC representative said the Kuwaiti officials were so much influenced by the Iraqi regime that when the plane carrying their special envoy to Tehran was threatened by Iraqi planes and forced to flee to the Soviet territory, they did not or dared not announce the incident had been caused by Iraq. "This is a problem they (the Kuwaiti's) themselves have created and it is Kuwait which should understand the issue and correct her stands," he said.

The ICO head said at the meeting that the organisation had made important efforts towards adopting more serious stands over the past two years. He also described Iran as "an important member" of the ICO which "enjoys strong positions" vis-a-vis regional issues, including the Palestine and Afghanistan issues, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Pirzada that in similar meetings, the ICO had not come out with serious decisions but mere ceremonies. "We are not very much hopeful that the conference would succeed in taking serious action," Hashemi-Rafsanjani predicted.

The Majlis speaker further stated that if the ICO had declared the aggressor and the party responsible for starting the war from the very beginning, the war would have ended very soon and the ICO itself would have attained a strong standing. "If you manage to run the ICO in a manner whereby you do not fear the indignation of this or that (person), then all governments would take the ICO seriously," concluded Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

ICO chief Pirzada arrived in Tehran Sunday to persuade Iran to send a high level delegation to the ICO summit meet in Kuwait. He has so far met with a number of high ranking Iranian officials, including President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, and Foreign Minister Velayati.

Pirzada Departs After 3-Day Visit

LD310959 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Shariffudin Pirzada, left Tehran at the end of a three-day visit and talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran officials over the forthcoming ICO summit in Kuwait.

Pirzada was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During his visit, Pirzada held talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on the ICO meet and invited the Iranian officials to actively participate in the summit. However, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran called for change in the venue of the summit due to hostile stance of the Kuwaiti Government towards Iran and also its support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Economy Minister Meets Visiting Sri Lankan

LD302037 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Visiting Sri Lankan minister of finance and planning announced his country's readiness to resume activities of the joint Iran-Sri Lanka economic commission, here Tuesday.

The Sri Lankan Minister Ronald De Mel who met Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad-Javad Iravani, said that further discussions would be held on the issue.

The two sides expressed hope that the bilateral trade and economic exchanges would be diversified further, based on the existing cooperation between the two states.

The Sri Lankan official extended an invitation to Iravani for a formal visit to the South Asian island nation.

De Mel arrived here on Dec 28.

Velayati Confers With Official

LD302043 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 39, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told visiting Sri Lankan Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald De Mel here Tuesday that the Indian Ocean littoral states should not allow the superpowers to infiltrate the region.

Velayati also expressed concern over efforts by the regime occupying Palestine to infiltrate the region and said it is a strategic duty of the Islamic Republic to fight this cancerous tumor (Israel) in the region. The foreign minister also said that it was necessary for Islamic and Third World countries to battle this bastion of Western hegemony in the region.

In response, De Mel announced that his country opposed the superpowers' presence in the Indian Ocean and said the Colombo government would remain a non-aligned country. The Sri Lankan minister also called for further expansion of Tehran-Colombo relations in economic, political, cultural, and commercial fields.

Deputy Minister, Afghan Party Official Meet

LD301719 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani said here Tuesday that Afghan Muslims should not be deceived by the U.S. propaganda and that the mujahidin should not be weakened. He made the remarks in a meeting with head of Jamiat-e Eslami (the Islamic Party) of Afghanistan Burhaneddin Rabbani who met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan together with leaders of several Afghan groups in Washington last June.

Larijani said that the White House made serious attempts at rapprochement with Iran, but that its endeavours ended in failure. "If we had paid the least attention to the U.S., it would have provided Iran with huge assistance," he added.

The Afghan issue is similar to that of Iran, Larijani said, and the Afghan Muslims should realise that the U.S. opposes Islam and only seeks to exploit the issue as a weapon against the Soviet Union.

The Afghan people are involved in an extensive struggle against Soviet aggressors, he said, further exhorting them to preserve the genuineness of this jihad (holy war) which he described as being more important than victory itself.

Later in the meeting Larijani termed the Geneva talks on Afghan issue "a big plot" hatched against the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan and noted that the Soviet Union has the most to gain from these talks. He stressed that the Afghan issue should not be resolved in the context of East-West equations.

Larijani described [the] presence of 150,000 Soviet forces in Afghanistan as "an obvious foreign interference" in that country and said the Kremlin claim that it was cutting the foreign hands from this Muslim country simply means the suppression of the Afghan Muslims' resistance.

In reply Rabbani said that Afghan Muslims stood in need of the advice of Iranian officials as never before because of the complexity of the conspiracies hatched against the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Rabbani is currently here to exchange views with other Afghan groups as well as Islamic Republic authorities.

Montazeri Confers With Lebanese Clergyman

LD292045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat al-Islam Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din, a Lebanese clergyman, conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, yesterday evening.

Velayati Receives Clergyman

LD292051 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — Visiting Lebanese vice-chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Mohammad Mahdi Shams al-Din discussed regional issues, Lebanon's camp-wars as well as the Iranian-sponsored peace plan with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday. In the meeting Velayati stressed the need for halting the clashes which he said were to the benefit of the imperialists and Zionists.

Shams al-Din in reply expressed support for the Iranian peace plan for ending the clashes around Palestinian camps in Lebanon and approved President Khamene'i's recent remarks calling for the lifting of blockade and the food embargo to Al-Rashidiyah camp.

Lebanon 'Facing Grave Difficulties'

LD311016 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Dec 31, IRNA — Visiting Vice Chairman of the Lebanese Shi'ite assembly Shaykh Shams al-Din met and conferred here Monday night with Imam Khomeyni's representative to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the city, Ayatollah Va'ez Tabasi.

The imam's representative emphasized that the key to solving the political and social problems of Lebanon lays in the unity of committed forces of the country. He said those who try to prolong the camps war are Zionist and imperialist agents.

Shaykh Shams al-Din said that Lebanon is facing grave difficulties but voiced hope that the resistance of the Lebanese Muslim nation will ultimately prevail in restoring stability to the country.

The Shi'ite Lebanese parliamentarian is in Mashhad on pilgrimage to the holy shrine of the eighth Shi'ite Imam Reza (AS).

Lebanese Youth Honored for Killing Israelis

LD292127 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 29, IRNA — Martyr Ahmad Qasir has received due recognition for sacrificing his life in the struggle against the Zionist occupation of Lebanon. The Lebanese youth was behind the frontal assault on the Israeli headquarters in Tyre on November 11, 1982. The attack is now revealed as being responsible for killing at least 75 Zionist soldiers.

As the largest single defeat the Israelis suffered during their invasion of Lebanon, it is seen as a watershed for a pattern of attacks on the Zionist occupiers until it was forced to withdraw the bulk of its troops from southern Lebanon in 1985.

Among the tributes paid to Qasir as a martyr for Islam is an enscribed bronze plaque sent from officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Tehran has also named one of its streets in respect for the Muslim youth, which runs parallel to a road named after Khalid Islambuli, famous for his revolutionary execution of President al-Sadat of Egypt.

In a dispatch from Qasir's home village of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr Monday, the London *Times* relates that the martyr's house has become a centre of attraction among the southern Lebanese still fighting to expel remnants of the Zionist army from their country.

The paper says that Qasir's father Ja'far Khalil has respectfully hung the bronze plaque in his modest home in commemoration of his son's proud feat.

Rafiqdust Explains 'Karbala-4' Objectives

LD311216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpts] During today's Cabinet session, Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Rafiqdust explained the objectives of the Karbala-4 operations on the southern front, and the heavy losses suffered by the Iraqi Armed Forces during these operations. He said: The fatal blow to the Iraqi forces was delivered when the Zionist enemy thought it was on full alert. However, the Iraqi Command was panic-stricken by the breaking of the countless obstacles created along the front, and this resulted in heavy losses and casualties of the Iraqi forces, many times more than predicted by the planners of the operations. The extensive use of chemical weapons by the Ba'thist criminals did not help them very much either.

Continuing his remarks, and referring to the absurd and contradictory propaganda of foreign mass media, which hastened to help Saddam's regime, the minister of the Guards Corps said: Our nation has become accustomed to hearing delayed reports of victory, distorted by the arrogant mass media. The nation has not forgotten the experience of the Mehran and Al-Faw victories.

Also during this Cabinet session, a report by the Ministry of Roads and Transport on future activities, plans, and programs was presented. This report explained the ministry's collection of data and statistics on the number of trucks in the country, the training for road transportation, the role played by railways in economic expansion and the elimination of bottlenecks and deprivation, plans related to the expansion of the state rail network, and the big construction project of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway. At the conclusion of this report, the government paid tribute to the officials of the Ministry of Roads and Transport for their extensive activities on the front and behind the battlelines. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, during today's Cabinet session the allocation of 176 million rials for opening model schools and schools with computer facilities for training and storing data and information related to the Ministry of Education and Training was approved. The Cabinet also approved the allocation of 540 million rials for completion of the Qazvin plain project and the Gotvand irrigation projects, and for a study on the construction of its second and third dams.

News Conference Held on Offensive

LD301750 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr Kamal Kharrazi said here Tuesday that Iraq's false propaganda concerning Iran's Karbala-4 operations, launched in the southern fronts on 24 December, was aimed at boosting the morale of its badly-beaten forces. He said the Karbala-4 operations dealt shattering blows on enemy troops.

Speaking at a press conference here, the WIH head said in the small scale Karbala-4 offensive four small units of Iranian Muslim forces crossed the Arvand River and attacked enemy positions on Umm al-Rasas island.

The Iranian forces killed a large number of Iraqi soldiers, captured some others, and destroyed enemy defensive equipment on the island before returning to bases, Kharrazi said. He put the number of Iranain soldiers who participated in the Karbala-4 offensive at less than 6,000.

The WIH head noted that the Muslim forces of Iran achieved all their goals in the Karbala-4 operations, launched against Iraqi positions on Umm al-Rasas island in Shalamcheh region, one of the most sensitive areas along Iraq-Iran borders.

Dr Kharrazi said that the Iraqi regime had erected in the Karbala-4 operational theater the most fortified defence line on its side of the 1,300-km border with Iran. He said the obstacles included booby-trapped canals, mine fields, and barbed wire.

The WIH head said the lightning Iranian attack on Iraqi troops resulted in heavy enemy life and military equipment losses. He said the operation dealt a big defeat to Iraq despite its forces on the island being on full alert. One of the goals of the Karbala-4 offensive was to demonstrate Iranian forces' ability to break through even the most fortified Iraqi positions, he said.

Kharrazi said that another objective of the offensive was to gauge the psychological situation of Iraqi troops as well as enemy defense power.

Commenting on Iraq's contradictory claims on the limited Iranian offensive, Kharrazi said that Iraq's approach to the issue revealed that the only way it could boost its troops' morale after the stunning defeat was to wage a filthy propaganda campaign.

The Baghdad government, Kharrazi said, had engaged in the same type of dirty propaganda, albeit unskillfully, as did the German dictator Hilter. He said Iraq had first put the Iranian casualty toll in the offensive at 32,344 and then increased the number to 50,380 and then to 90,000.

Dr Kharrazi expressed regret that none of the Western mass media which had access to satellite data had criticized Iraq for having released such contradictory statistics on Iranian casualties. He said satellites did however, confirm that the Iranian offensive was a limited one.

If the Western mass media had investigated Iraqi propaganda more carefully they would certainly have realized Iraq's false propaganda was intended to ease the regime's ever-worsening crisis as well as the psychological pressures besetting it.

Dr Kharrazi said that after every Iranian offensive the Iraqi regime claims that it thwarted a large-scale Iranian attack in a bid to save itself from pressure exerted on it by world political bodies as well as the mass media. In the limited Karbala-4 offensive, Kharrazi said, the Iraqi regime had claimed that Iran's goal was to capture the southern Iraqi city of Basra while the offensive was in fact aimed at annihilating Iraqi troops.

On Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussyn's recent trip to Saudi Arabia, the WIH head said it was meant to overshadow the regional countries' shift in their stand on the Iraqi-imposed war which he said was to the detriment of the Baghdad government. He described their doubt about the Baghdad government's ability to remain in power as "all too apparent." The Persian Gulf states, he expressed hope, were wise enough not to be deceived by Saddam Husayn's propaganda maneuver.

"In our opinion, the Soviet Union has been cheated by the Iraqi regime more than any other country by having sided with and having equipped the Ba'thist regime in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war," he said. In fact, Kharrazi said, the Soviet Union came to realize the facts much later than Western countries did. He added that the Soviet Union was also cheated by the U.S. by taking the alleged funneling of part of profits from U.S. arms sales to Iran to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries seriously.

On the achievements of the recently concluded conference on Iraqi people's cooperation in Tehran, Dr Kharrazi said the goal of the conference was to coordinate struggle of all Iraqi opposition groups for toppling the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad as well as to draw up plans on Iraq's political future. "The conference was more successful than we expected," he said.

Asked about the Iraqi air raid on the southern Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf several months ago, Kharrazi said that Iran had some evidence that Iraq had used soil of other regional countries for its attack.

On the Islamic Republic's stand on certain countries backing the Baghdad government, Kharrazi said that such regional states dared not give their financial and military aid to the Iraqi regime openly. He, however, noted that Iran's tit-for-tat policy in relation with Iraq's supporters did not necessarily mean a military move.

Opposition on 'Complete Failure'

JN301345 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Dec 86 p 1

[By a *Jordan Times* staff writer]

[Text] Amman — The Mojahedin-e Khalq, the major Iranian group opposed to the Tehran regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, said Monday that at least 35,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in last week's blunted thrust into southern Iraq.

The group, in a statement telexed to the *Jordan Times*, quoted Mojahedin supporters in the Iranian Armed Forces for the casualty figure.

"The Khomeyni regime's latest offensive against Iraqi territory was a complete failure," the statement quoted its sources as saying.

In addition to the thousands of killed or wounded, the death toll was mounting because of severe problems transferring the wounded from the front line to hospitals, the statement said.

Iraq has said that more than 32,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in the two-day Iranian thrust, which was launched Wednesday night, and reporters visiting the battlefront on Saturday said they counted hundreds of Iranian corpses littering the area or floating in the Shatt Al-'Arab waterway.

Iraq has said that the Iranian assault was aimed at its southern port of Basra after taking the Umm al-Rasas island in the waterway. The island was recaptured by the Iraqis Friday morning.

The Mojahedin statement named 14 Iranian divisions and four brigades that took part in the attack and said the ill-fated offensive was planned by Iran's parliamentary speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The regime's objective in this offensive was to cross the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and cut off the Al-Faw-Basra highway, the statenment said. "On that same day, Rafsanjani had promised a large offensive at the front. But, subsequent to the complete defeat of the offensive — 16 hours after if was launched and reported by most news agencies — in an attempt to cover up its disastrous defeat, the regime announced in its media that this was a limited and diversionary assault."

Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim of Basra Attack

LD310819 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters spokesman, in a statement here Wednesday strongly denied Iraqi claims alleging the Islamic Republic of Iran of having recently bombed residential areas of the Iraqi port-city of Basra. Labeling the claims as totally 'baseless', he said that such attributions are made only to justify Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas.

The Iraqi representative to the UN in a note submitted to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Monday, claimed that Iran had bombed residential areas of Basra and killed a number of civilians. The Baghdad radio which broadcast the news did not give the time of the attacks.

The WIH spokesman said that the Islamic combatants have not opened fire on Basra in recent days. However, he stressed, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran consider it their right to respond firmly to enemy's acts of mischief.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,700 Issued

LD291703 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 15 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with one anti-aircraft gun destroyed in Mehran, Dehloran, Bayat, Zobeydeh, and Abadan operational theaters Sunday when they were hit by artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie Forces, said a military communique here Monday. Communique Number 2,700 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties on Iraqi troops in eastern Basra and Pich-e Angizeh operational regions, southern fronts, where enemy engineering operations were concentrated.

Convoys of Iranian patrols successfully reconnoitered Iraqi positions in Hajj 'Umran and Marivan, northwestern fronts, Sunday, inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy troops. Enemy artillery fire was also silenced in Hajj 'Umran.

The Joint Staff communique furthermore said that Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties and losses when Iranian Muslim combatants shelled enemy armoured, artillery, and motorized units in the western fronts Sunday. Parts of enemy positions were also set ablaze.

Iranian forces shelled enemy armoured units and checked reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters on Sunday, the communique said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern and northern fronts on Sunday, the communique said, adding that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi tanks in Yabis, southern fronts, damaging a number of them.

Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Kani-Sheykh and Helaleh operational theaters, southern fronts, on Sunday.

Communique No 2,701

LD301554 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 30, IRNA — A considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 45 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, three tank positions, and three anti-aircraft gun positions were destroyed throughout the fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Monday [29 December], said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,701 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi armoured units in Yabis and Nahr-e Anbar operational theaters, southern fronts, Monday destroying some enemy tanks with their crews.

Some Iraqi rocket-propelled-grenade launchers (RPG-7) were seized by convoys of Iranian patrols who successfully reconnoitered pre-determined enemy positions throughout the fronts Monday, it said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft Shahr as a result of which Iraqi troops were prevented from repairing their damaged positions or setting up mine fields.

The communique furthermore said that a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and at least 15 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday when they were hit by the artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin operational regions, western fronts, Monday, forcing the enemy patrol helicopters to flee, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said, Iraqi artillery units suffered heavy damage and their fire silenced in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Monday by Iranian artillery fire.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, Iranian artillery fire killed or wounded a large number of Iraqi forces and destroyed more than 30 enemy gun emplacements, three anti-aircraft gun positions, and three tank positions. Movement of enemy vehicle columns were also checked in Qasr-e Shirin.

In Piranshah, Marivan, and Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire silenced Iraqi fire and made enemy supply routes unsafe, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces continued fortifying their positions and opened heavy fire on enemy fortifications on Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Iraqi Ammunition Depot 'Destroyed'

LD271713 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 27, IRNA — An Iraqi ammunition depot was destroyed around Umm Qasr port in the Val-Fajr-8 operational theater, by artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Friday. Vast parts around the port were engulfed by flame and smoke as a result of the explosion.

Iraqi logistical operations were also halted when enemy supply routes in the operational region came under Iranian artillery fire Friday.

IRGC Reports Peshmerga Operations

LD281412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced: The Peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq [KDP] in an operation carried out on 23 December attacked a summer palace of Saddam in (Eyngkeh) region, near Sartang, and inflicted heavy losses on special forces guarding the palace.

The report, quoting Ramadan headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, also says, another group of the KDP Peshmergas attacking concentration points of the enemy forces at (Basteki) region, near Zakhu, fired on the locality using heavy weaponry and killing 30 of the forces of the Zionist enemy. They also destroyed three vehicles.

Another report from Ramadan headquarters says, the KDP Peshmergas setting an ambush along the main road from Amadiyah to (Dalluk) succeeded in destroying a vehicle of the Iraqi Army and killing three passengers. In the course of the operation, 12 light and heavy weapons were captured.

Iraqi Battalion Surrenders

LD291059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] A report from Ramadan headquarters says: Following successive defeats suffered by the Iraqi regime on political and military fronts at the hands of the Islamic Republic, and the misguided Iraqi Army's realization of the sinister nature of the Ba'thist regime, and in the knowledge that Saddam's regime is to collapse shortly, the Iraqi Afwaj al-Khafifah Battalion, under the command of Dara Hajji Ibrahim, surrendered yesterday to the Peshmerga of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan with all their equipment. The battalion was responsible for Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah region. [passage omitted]